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THURSDAY, MAY 23RD, 2013

'Barry people desperate for island road'

Meeting to be held on Sunday

A MEETING is being held at Barry Island Sports and Social Club this Sunday (May 26, 7pm) by people desperate to see a second access road to the Island.

One of the organisers, Island resident Ian Bailey, told The GEM: "Residents from the town and Island are all welcome to attend."

"I have concerns regarding 'safety' on days when there is traffic congestion."

"On the last Bank Holiday there was a lot of inconvenience – I know of a carer who visits a woman on the Island up to three times a day, and she was delayed for two-and-a-half hours on one of the visits."

"My father-in-law suffers from Alzheimer's and I'm concerned that if he falls, there could be delays in getting an ambulance to him."

On the Bank Holiday, Mr Bailey's mother left his house on the Island at 6.45pm, heading for Coldbrook Road, and it took her an hour to get to the Ship Inn.

Once again
The Bead Room
Is moving to
Cardiff City Football
Stadium for the May
Craft and Hobby
Show

The shop and offices will be closed from Noon on Thursday 23rd Until Tuesday 28th May to enable this to happen.

Why not come and join us at the show. It's open from 10am to 5pm on Friday 24th to Saturday 25th

Entry is just £4.00 with under 10's FREE
FREE parking too

The Bead Room @ Boxes & Busts

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

Mr Bailey added: "The meeting is non-political – it's about residents who want to find out more information and want to discuss a way forward on a new road."

Last week in The GEM, the Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, confirmed that the critical parties to a way forward – the Vale Council, the Welsh Government and the Waterfront Consortium – were in talks.

New town centre report published

THE VALE Council cabinet has taken delivery of a consultants' mammoth report that looks at how the main towns in the Vale should be developed.

It was 18 months ago that consultants Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners were commissioned to produce a 'Town Centre Framework' and this document has now been completed.

The two areas in Barry that were considered are Holton Road – given the slogan 'Managing change for a viable 21st Century Centre' – and High Street and Broad Street, to be marketed as 'Barry's independent cluster and night time destination'.

Cowbridge will be marketed as 'Destination Cowbridge' – while Penarth gets the perhaps more exciting tag of 'The Vale's artistic and cultural hub'.

Llanwit Major is likely to be branded as the 'Historical Gateway to Glamorgan Heritage Coast'.

The report, which runs to more than 100 pages, is sure to be looked at in detail in the coming weeks.

JOANNA IS TOP NEW TEACHER IN WALES!



ABOVE: Coun Steffan Wiliam, top new teacher Joanna Parslow, David Vinning (chair), the Vale Council's cabinet member for children's services, Coun Chris Elmore, headteacher Ty Golding, and chief learning and skills officer Jennifer Hill.

A TEACHER at Barry Island Primary School has been crowned 'Outstanding New Teacher in Wales'.

Joanna Parslow, who has been teaching for less than two years, has won the Pearson Teaching Award for Wales and will now go forward to the UK final in London.

Staff, pupils and parents attended a special celebration assembly on Friday to congratulate her.

The Pearson Teaching Awards are an annual celebration of exceptional teachers and teaching. Founded in 1999 by Lord Puttnam, they recognise the life-changing impact of an inspirational teacher on the lives of the young people.

Headteacher Ty Golding, who nominated Joanne for her award, said: "Still only in her second year of teaching, Joanne is an inspiration, not just to the children in her class, but to her colleagues and the wider school community."

"She is a constantly cheerful member of the team, who always has a smile, a willingness to help others, and takes the utmost pride in all she does."

"She supports her colleagues and is recognised throughout the school as a leading practitioner, committed to providing the best possible learning experiences for children."

"There is no secret to Jo's success in the classroom and beyond. She works tirelessly to ensure

that all the children in her care achieve their very best."

"Her belief in them and her determination for them to succeed is second to none. Jo has an innate ability to identify and provide exactly what each child needs to feel – a sense of pride and achievement in their work."

A delighted Joanne thanked the school, the children, headteacher Mr Golding and the community. She also said her success was largely due to the opportunities she has received at Barry Island Primary School.

She will now join fellow winners at the UK final of the Teaching Awards on October 20, filmed in London and broadcast by the BBC.

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'Council not to blame for Island road hold-up'

WE have all, yet again, witnessed Bank Holiday traffic chaos on Barry Island and the main approach roads.

Traffic was backed up through Broad Street, St Nicholas Road, Park Crescent, Jenner and Colcot Road, and even as far beyond junction 33 of the M4 motorway.

This has to be addressed as a matter of extreme importance. We must protest further and with great gusto and persistence.

May I take this opportunity to inform readers that for once the council is not to blame for the delay in the new road to the Island.

'Stop moaning about the new Island road'

I AM getting quite frustrated with readers' constant moans in The GEM about the lack of a second road to Barry Island.

I'm no engineer, but I know a road cannot be built overnight, especially on reclaimed industrial land.

It's already been stated that a new road will be built as part of the new 'Quays' development – people just have to be patient.

Roads require planning, especially when part of a bigger development. A busy road through the middle of a building site is not ideal for the public or developers, as surely it will hold up building progress, and dodging diggers and site traffic is not ideal.

Also, I'd like to point out that as somebody who can see the Island road from their house, there is only a problem on a few days a year – so why is everybody panicking?

Of course, a main route to a beach resort on a sunny day is going to be busy! Every seaside resort in the country probably has similar issues.

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Readers' Letters

IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Roundabout way to tackle Island chaos

AT LAST! I thought I was a single voice, just talking to the wind and nobody was listening – until I read the letter in your newspaper from another helpless soul like myself.

I refer to the recent letter entitled 'Road Chaos Will Remain' from 'name and address supplied'. Don't be shy, stand alongside me and soon we may be heard!

This new road will do nothing! There isn't and never has been, a problem with getting off the Island. It's a very short, straight road. The problem arises after you've got off the Island.

The new road is due to come out at the roundabout at the new Premier Inn – another roundabout! From here, if traffic has to get to Culverhouse Cross, it has to go along Millennium Way, through

POLITICAL FOOTBALL

ONCE again, our local politicians are playing a game of political football, by blaming each other for the delay in providing a second road to Barry Island.

As for the council blaming the developers for slow progress, this isn't a new phenomenon – it has been the situation for years.

To put the issue into perspective, I commute to Cardiff or Newport every day and experience static or slow traffic on a daily basis.

Surely a much better thing to worry and moan about would be the general access to and from the motorway and Cardiff?

If this was resolved and there were quicker routes in and out, then the airport would no doubt benefit, as would the community as a whole – with more people being tempted to move here; and the journey to work much more pleasurable.

What a complete shambles!

I'd much prefer that the council got their priorities right and focused on the things that affect Barry people every day, than something we have to worry about a few times per year!

(Name and address supplied).

Life not sweet without bees

IT seems like our Government enjoy going against public opinion – no matter what the evidence to the contrary.

They actually voted against a ban on a nerve agent pesticide in the EU debate to protect our bees.

Their excuse is to protect food production, but the argument could also be used to protect bees for food production.

So what is the real purpose of their opposition?

LET IT BEE...

*What would life be, without a bee?
No flowers, no fruit, for you and me,
No sound or hum, in the morning sun,
no taking the mick, when someone is stung.
This country would be a more desolate place,
the Government should join the human race.*

Colin Dudley,

Barry.

Help children by first raising their parents out of poverty!

WE hear (quite frequently) politicians of all colours and at all levels of the political spectra, proclaiming their desire to "raise children out of poverty."

That is, indeed, a laudable ambition, but children cannot be raised out of poverty unless the parents are first raised out of poverty.

The exact opposite is happening at the present time.

Almost certainly what these politicians are doing is trying to play on the sentiments of parents, when what they really want is to gain or hold on to power.

With the attacks on footpaths initiated by this Tory-led coalition, while making the rich richer, amply supported by the LibDems – and the nearly same agenda (albeit

hidden for the present) of both the Labour party and UKIP – no child is going to rise above poverty – no matter how loudly politicians scream their pseudo-platitudes on this issue.

It is little wonder that politics has sunk to almost severer levels when politicians are barely swimming above it.

Only a politician who tells the naked truth (sadly, virtually none do at present) will find resonance with the electorate.

Very few of us, if any, are not able to see the difference between the truth, lies, and sound-bites.

It is amazing that politicians seem unable to figure that out, so one does wonder if it takes a very discordant mind for anyone to launch into politics these days.

Marc Delaney, Barry.

'Re-open the right of way'

WHY this sudden uproar about Bank Holiday traffic congestion and the need for another road in Barry? Has it not happened before?

I have a solution – the council should re-open the designated right of way to Barry Island which the Persimmon Group blocked when they acquired the land, but which was kept available by dedicated members of the public constantly using it until

heavy machinery was moved in.

The council signally failed in its duty to maintain and protect public footpaths and rights of way in this case, but could make up for it by insisting the construction of a new road by the development company should be the first priority.

Rights of way do not disappear just because they are on private land and are being built over.

Will the council act?

Hang on! I've just seen pigs flying by!

Ronald Peck

Barry.

*** If you have a view on any issues of local concern, write to the Editor at the address given on this page. Remember to include name, address and telephone number.**

Rural Vale off the radar

I WRITE to add my

ing in July 2013.

I am another

GEM reader,

concerned and dissatisfied

user of a public service

being provided in the

rural Vale.

I agree entirely with

Jim Morgan's comments.

As a resident of Rhoose,

I have seen the X45 bus

service being re-routed,

the timetable changed,

the operator running a

very reduced service, and

now it will cease oper-

Flip side to Butlin's site development

I AM very grateful

to M

Goldsworthy of

the Vale of

Glamorgan

Development and

Building Control

Department for a let-

ter advising of the

proposed develop-

ment for the former

Butlin's site at Nell's

Point.

I greatly welcome a

development which will,

at long last, put this site

to good use and improve

the area in which I live.

I do, however, have

grave reservations about

the wisdom of a propos-

al which, hopefully,

would attract more visitors – when the current road system is not fit for purpose in coping with the present volume of holiday traffic.

My concern is, that the development, without the proposed, and urgently-needed second link road, is rather putting the horse before the cart and while the additional parking space will solve one problem, the increase in traffic on and off Barry Island may well become an even greater problem.

David Alexander, Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL May 30)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
23 Thur	05.23	9.1	17.53	9.4
24 Fri	06.14	9.6	18.41	9.8
25 Sat	07.03	9.9	19.29	10.2
26 Sun	07.54	10.1	20.18	10.3
27 Mon	08.42	10.2	21.05	10.3
28 Tues	09.31	10.0	21.49	9.9
29 Wed	10.21	9.6	22.44	9.6
30 Thur	11.08	9.1	23.33	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.



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ARMED POLICE IN A BARRY CRIME SWOOP

'Operation Franklyn', a day-long operation targeting local criminals, has been carried out by police, including armed officers, in Barry.

They forced entry into a number of properties in the area to search for drugs and stolen property. Taking part were local officers and specialist resources from across the force, including firearms officers and police search dogs.

The operation on Thursday followed a similar exercise in the

Bridgend area on Wednesday.

Detective Constable Darren Voss, of Barry Police Station, explained: "The main aim of the operation was to disrupt the criminal activity of a number of individuals who we believed to be involved in crime in the Barry area."

"We want to send a message out to the criminals and to the community that dealing drugs and burgling houses will not be tolerated."

A total of five warrants were executed, which had resulted in three arrests.

A 31-year-old man was charged with possession of class C drugs and will appear at Barry Magistrates on June 6.

A 36-year-old man charged with possession of class B and class C drugs, and a 34-year-old man charged with possession of class C drugs will appear at Barry Magistrates on June 7.

Also arrested during the operation, on suspicion of

burglary, were a 20-year-old woman and 26-year-old man. They remained in police custody.

Barry couple are fined for under age alcohol sales

A BARRY couple have been fined more than £900 – for selling alcohol to under-age customers.

Following an investigation by the Vale Council's trading standards team, Hiren and Avani Patel were prose-

cuted at Cardiff Magistrates Court on Thursday, May 9, for offences under the Licensing Act 2003.

Mr and Mrs Patel, premises licence holders of Misha News at 81 Cardiff Road, Barry, were found guilty of selling alcohol to an underage trading standards volunteer, following a joint test purchasing exercise.

The test purchasing exercise was conducted by the Vale Council's trading standards team and South Wales Police, funded through the Safer Partnership.

They were fined a total of £993, to be paid within seven days.

Principal trading stan-

dards officer Christina Roberts-Kinsey said: "This is another example of positive partnership working here in the Vale of Glamorgan.

"We are committed to reducing crime and disorder and preventing the sale of alcohol to young people."

Council leader, Coun Neil Moore, said: "We recognise in the Vale that anti-social behaviour stemming from underage drinking can have negative impact on local communities.

"I urge anyone in the community who has concerns about young people accessing alcohol to contact our trading standards team on 01446 709105."

AT the recent AGM of Soroptimist International Barry and District, outgoing president Mrs Judy James reflected on how much she had enjoyed her second term.

The support and spirit of fellowship and good humour she had received during a year of high fundraising had been rewarding.

Many local and Soroptimist regional and international charities had been supported. The highlight of her year had been the Diva opera evening, when over £2,500 had been raised for Marie Curie, her nominated charity.

Incoming president Audrey Hirst congratulated Judy on behalf of the club on her year of office and the very entertaining talk she gave at her presidential lunch, with reminiscences of her life 'From Budapest to Barry in 30



years.'

Judy was presented with a blue Heritage plaque to mark this event, along with a framed photograph of herself in her chain of office.

Audrey, who lives in Dinas Powys, is a social worker, and has been a family fund adviser in Wales for 27 years. The fund gives practical help to children with disabilities and their families.

Audrey is interested in the Soroptimist values of education, enablement and empowerment of women and girls throughout the world.

Her chosen charity will be the Eczema Society and, on a local level, she hopes to offer support to children with eczema who attend the children's centre at Llandough Hospital, which is celebrating its 80th birthday this year.

Audrey writes creatively for pleasure, and is a frequent visitor to Bermuda and Yorkshire where her daughters live.

The photos show immediate past president Judy, president Audrey and president-elect, Jean Bisham.

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FRACKING
THE next meeting of Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday, June 4 in the Castle Hotel, Jewel Street, Barry, when 'fracking' will be the main item on the agenda and the need to organise opposition groups from Bonvilston to Llantwit Major.

CHARITY QUIZ

BARRY committee of Cancer Research UK Cymru is holding a quiz on Wednesday, June 5 at the Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, at 8pm. Entrance fee is £2 per person, payable at the door or on the night.

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY

JUST A SELECTION OF OUR LARGE MENU

APPETISERS	ROYAL FAVOURITES	CLAY OVEN GRILLS
Served with Fresh Salad and Mint Sauce Chicken / Meat / Veg Samosa £1.90 Chicken / Lamb Tikka £2.80 Sheek Kebab £2.70 Mixed Grill £3.25 Tikka Roll £2.75 Garlic Tikka £2.95 Garlic Chilli Chat £2.95 Aloo Chat Poori £2.60 Chilli Paneer £2.50 Spicy Chicken Bites £3.25 Tikka Chat £2.90 Paneer Tikka £2.80 Chingri Poori £2.95 Royal Platter (for 2) £5.95	Naga Jaipuri £6.10 Traditional balti £6.50 Garlic Chilli Chicken £5.95 Maharaja Bhuna £5.95 Supreme Mango Chicken £6.10 Laal Maas £6.10 Chicken Tikka Masala £5.95 Chicken / Lamb Jalfrezi £5.95 Chicken / Lamb Pasanda £5.95 Chicken / Lamb Makhanai £5.95	Served with Fresh Salad and Mint Sauce Chicken / Lamb Tikka £5.75 Garlic Murgh Tikka £5.95 Chicken / Lamb Shashlik £6.85 Paneer Tikka £5.75 Sizzling Grill Platter £7.95
BIRYANI DISHES	SIDE DISHES	
Cooked with fragrant Basmati rice with delicately spiced chicken, lamb, prawn or vegetables. Served with a vegetable based curry sauce.	Palak Paneer £2.30 Aloo Gobi £2.25 Aloo Palak £2.25 Palak Bhaji £2.25 Aloo Baingan £2.25 Mushroom Bhaji £2.25 Bhendi Bhaji £2.25 Aloo Zeera £2.25 Chana Masala £2.25 Tarka Daal £2.25 Chips £1.50	
CHEF'S SPECIALS	RICE DISHES	
Sylheti Murgh / Gosht (new) £6.10 Chicken or Lamb cooked with green peppers, whole garlic, coriander, fried chilli in a special mixed sauce. Jaipuri Tikka (new) £6.25 Tender pieces of chicken or lamb grilled in the clay oven and cooked with fried mushrooms, fried onions and fried capsicum with fresh spices in a thick sauce. Highly recommended. Shorsha Raja Chingri (new) £8.25 King prawns cooked Bengali style in a fairly hot sauce with mustard sauce, ginger, garlic and green chillies. Masala-E-Bahar (new) £6.50 Chicken tikka, lamb tikka and sheekh kebab cooked in a special bhuna masala sauce. Borkte Tikka (new) £6.25 Grilled chicken tikka cooked with coriander powder in a special slightly hot sauce.	Royal Special Biryani £7.25 Kachochi Biryani £6.95 Maharaja Biryani £7.50 Chicken/Lamb/Prawn Biryani £9.55 Murgh Tikka Biryani £6.85 King Prawn Biryani £8.50 Badshahi Biryani (new) £6.25 Sabi Biryani £4.95	Freshly cooked Basmati Rice Royal Special Rice £2.85 plain Rice £1.70 Pulao Rice £1.90 Balti Rice £2.60 Peshwari Pulao £2.70 Saag Pulao £2.35 Lemon Pulao £2.35 Garlic Pulao £2.35 Mughlai Pulao £2.85 Keema Pulao £2.35 Mushroom Pulao £2.35 Special Pulao £2.35
ROYAL EXCLUSIVES	NAN BREADS	
Royal Balti Special £7.50 Morris Pora £6.10 Kochi Tikka £6.25 Shakot Murgh / Gosht £5.95 Shahi Honey Korma £5.95 Hash Jalfrezi (Duck) £7.50 Hash Karahi (Lamb) £7.50 Chicken / Lamb Pathila £6.10 Garlic Chicken Tikka Masala £6.10	Freshly baked from our clay oven Royal Special Nan £2.50 (Chicken, Potato, Spinach) Plain Nan £1.70 Tikka Nan £2.00 (Chicken Tikka) Peshwari Nan (n) £2.00 (Almond and Coconut)	
MUGHAL DISHES		
Sali Murgh Tikka (new) £6.10 Traditional style marinated chicken cooked with garlic, ginger, tomato, coriander in a special sauce topped with fried potato straws. Millennium Tikka (new) £6.25 Marinated chicken or lamb cooked with sliced ginger, whole garlic, sliced green chilli in a thick medium to hot sauce.	Mughlai Murgh / Gosht £5.95 Mughlai Garlic Chilli £6.25 Mughlai Nizami £6.50 Mughlai Karahi £6.25	

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Mirchi Murgh Roshani - £6.50
Spring tandoori chicken (off the bone) garnished with red pepper, fresh garlic and green chillies, fairly hot.

Kashmiri Lazeez - £6.10
Chicken tikka cooked with Indian cottage cheese (paneer) in a creamy mild coconut and almond bhuna sauce.

Saag Khumbi Chicken - £5.95
Chicken cooked with leaf spinach, mushrooms, fresh sliced green chillies and sliced ginger.

Red Chilli Chicken - £6.25
Chicken cooked with fresh garlic, ginger, fried whole jeera, red hot dried chilli, all simmered in a hot and spicy sauce

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FOOD HYGIENE RATING

OPEN BANK HOLIDAY

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Royal Balti Special £7.50 Morris Pora £6.10 Kochi Tikka £6.25 Shakot Murgh / Gosht £5.95 Shahi Honey Korma £5.95 Hash Jalfrezi (Duck) £7.50 Hash Karahi (Lamb) £7.50 Chicken / Lamb Pathila £6.10 Garlic Chicken Tikka Masala £6.10	Freshly baked from our clay oven Royal Special Nan £2.50 (Chicken, Potato, Spinach) Plain Nan £1.70 Tikka Nan £2.00 (Chicken Tikka) Peshwari Nan (n) £2.00 (Almond and Coconut)

MUGHAL DISHES
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FORMER COUNCIL 'LEADER' IS REMEMBERED ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HER DEATH

'Margaret is gone, but not forgotten'

AS a tribute on the first anniversary of the death of former Vale Council leader, Margaret Alexander, her partner Yvonne Morris, has sent The GEM a poem Margaret wrote about Barry in the 1950s.

Coun Alexander became one of the foremost women in the town's history, the first woman to lead the Vale Council, and is now immortalised as one of 17 notable women featured in the Women's Trail.

The trail highlights local women of extraordinary achievement.

Coun Alexander was born in Oxford Street in the town, and became the Vale of Glamorgan Mayor in 2005-6, and was the Labour Leader from December 2006 to May 2008.

At the time of her death last year, the Leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore, remarked: "Margaret was a wonderful person who would

take on any issue, particularly if it affected the most vulnerable in our community and she always championed the cause of those most in need.

The Vale's Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, told The GEM this week that Margaret had been admired across the political divide.

She said: "I miss Margaret Alexander for her wisdom, her kindness, her sharp intellect and above all her integrity.

"She always said and did things which were based on an understanding of what can be achieved, especially in political life, for the common good.

"Because of that, she was respected across the political spectrum. She built trust and understanding in the community she served and with the people she worked with – achieving so much which was good and beneficial for others.

"She believed in compassion and justice and she is greatly missed."

Yvonne told The GEM: "Margaret served as the Labour councillor for Buttrills ward for 17

years. "Last year a bench was dedicated to her memory at Nell's Point. "She was a person totally without ego, and very humble."

This is the haunting poem that Margaret wrote about the town in the 1950s.

THIS TOWN

*This town
Where houses litter
coal stained reaches,
And terraces check the
hills' drift
To oil glazed docks.*

Haunts me.

*With echoing Sundays
And strange chapels.*

Torments me.

*With re-arranging skies
And slate shot seas.*

*Stepped pebbles climb
the foreshore,
Groaning in the ebb and
suck of the waning tide.
Gantries stretch skeletal
arms
Where coal wagons,
empty now, still lie.*

*The distant clang of the
trimmer's pick
Punctuates the*



ABOVE:
Margaret Alexander.
foghorn's muffled bleat.
In sidings, weed
encrusted, dank
Old engines lean.

*Sodden, sober streets,
Threaded with braided
light
Line the tilting hills,
Channelling the wind.*

*Footsteps ring on steel
wet stone
Broken tongues stutter
against weathered bone.
And I*

*Fatherless among the
gales
Wander in the salt
grained sand.*

Councillor wades into the pothole controversy

A BARRY councillor last week added his voice to concerns about the state of roads in Barry and surrounding area.

Coun Richard Bertin pointed out: "Local residents are not happy with the poor state of some of the roads and are calling on the Vale Council to get their act together. The claims have been made despite a Labour pre-election pledge promising to sort out the roads in the Vale. Labour formed a coalition with Llanwit First to run the council last May and launched the 'Big Fill' campaign.

"I thought it was an amazing idea when Labour launched the Big Fill Campaign. Sadly, it looks like despite this campaign, roads in the area are still in a poor state."

Mr Gary Dommett, a local resident who lives

Westbury Close, said: "I would like someone from the council to come out and see just how bad our road is! It really is in an appalling state. I really would like the Vale Council and resurface this road soon because there are deep potholes and loose chippings everywhere from the road has worn away."

"The Big Fill Campaign promised to deal with the issue of potholes in the county, but although it seems some have been dealt with, many others haven't," said Coun Bertin.

He added that he is going to ask for a special report, in the hope that something can be done to improve the situation.

Scouts take to Barry Docks



ABOVE:
Chris Parsons presenting Barry Dyer and Chris Parsons with their Level 2 Powerboating Certificates

AS part of a weekend of activity on Barry Docks, Scouts were presented with RYA Level 2 Powerboat Certificates.

Barrie Dyer and Joseph Bertera received their certificates from 5th Barry Scout Leader Chris Parsons, as they helped an activity weekend on the docks.

Scouts from 1st St Athan as well as the 5th and 6th Barry Groups had a great weekend of activity on the water, rowing, sailing and powerboating.

In the evening the groups visited Quasar on Barry Island playing Laser Tag games before sleeping over in the Scout Halls.

Keith McIntyre Chairman of the Barry Dock Scout Boat Base said: "The weather could not have been better and everyone had

a great time on the water. Thanks are due to all the Leaders and Helpers who made this such a great weekend".



ABOVE:
St Athan Scout Leader, Mr Wynn Gower, watching the fun on the water.

Minister is 'impressed' by regeneration

CARL SARGEANT, the Minister for Housing and Regeneration, visited Barry Island to see for himself the good work that is being done to regenerate the area.

The visit coincided with the start of works on Nell's Point, the former Butlin's site and landmark, which is being bought back into use, initially as a car park and events space, as part of a Barry Island public realm programme receiving £632,079 Welsh Government funding.

The Minister said: "I welcome the work now under way to bring Nell's Point back into use and command the work already done across Barry. This is further evidence that Welsh Government funding is

making a real difference to the people and communities of Wales".

Coun Lis Burnett, who chairs the Barry regeneration Area Partnership Board said: "I am delighted that the Minister has taken time out of his busy schedule to visit Barry and to see at first hand our plans for Barry Island.

"I have held a number of discussions with traders and residents from the island in recent weeks, and will continue to do so over the coming weeks and months. Alongside the work planned for Nell's Point and the Island over the next 12 months, we will also be compiling a bid for future regeneration money for Barry and I look forward to working with all those with an interest in taking Barry forward."

Friends meet in Barry shop

FRIENDS and Neighbours in Barry held their May meeting at the Senior Health Shop where Wales and West Housing gave a talk on Oak Court and information on services available.

Members were invited to have a look at facilities offered and questions were asked.

Following the talk, members enjoyed taking part in games that had been purchased from a Kick Start grant encouraging them to interact with one another.

The group are looking forward to their June meeting when they will be visiting Blooms Garden Centre.

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THE NEW MAYOR OF BARRY IS INSTALLED



LOCAL photographer John O'Beirne captured these images of the recent ceremonial inauguration of the latest Barry Mayor – Coun Claire Curtis.

Her husband, fellow councillor Rob Curtis, is to be her consort.

Coun Paula Hardy was voted in as Deputy Mayor and her consort is Belinda Robertson.

Pictures by JOHN O'BEIRNE VALE PRESS PICTURES Tel: 01446 738823 Mobile: 07916 643617



ABOVE:
Coun Curtis with the former mayor, Coun Les Sword.

'No dogs' park sign changed

I WOULD like to respond to the letter published recently about Bassett Park, Barry.

The 'no dogs' allowed signs erected are the standard-sized sign (as in other parks in Barry), but I have reviewed the signs with officers from the Vale Council parks and grounds maintenance division and, with their agreement, these will be changed to signs that are A4 in size.

I would also like to reassure your readers that the CCTV camera in Bassett Park is functioning correctly and monitoring the local area.

If residents are still concerned about these issues or any other issue in Court ward, I will, of course, be only too happy to discuss this with them.

Coun Bronwen Brooks (Cabinet member for housing, building services and community safety)

MP VISITS COMMUNITY WORKERS

Castleland Centre transformed, but still needs funding for the local staff

THE Vale MP, Alun Cairns, has told The GEM that he hopes the Vale Council and local people will make full use of the services provided by the Drop In Centre Development Trust and the facilities at Castleland Community Centre.

The Drop In Centre, based at the community centre, provides vital support for nearby residents, and has pledged to keep doing so, despite struggling to find funding for key workers.

Mr Cairns visited the centre recently to see how the £500,000 renovation and refurbishment was serving the community.

The BIG Lottery Fund money and the funds from the Welsh Government's CFAP grant fund has transformed the building, increasing the Drop In Centre's current community services in support of residents.

Other services are on the way, including the development of a Social Firm through the centre's community cafe which will assist local people in their search for employment.

The MP said: "The Castleland Community Centre and Sensory Garden is first class and I take my hat off to Eileen Moore and her colleagues for succeeding

in attracting such a large investment to Barry. "The community centre can be used for so many purposes.

"There are plans for IT support, for encouraging community engagement, a diverse range of volunteer and training support for all members of the community and the Drop In Centre is already making a difference by providing a range of work-based placement opportunities for those on Job Centre Plus programmes.

"Having attracted such large capital funds, I hope that the Vale Council will make best use of it and support the running of the facility.

"After all, building a facility is one thing, but people and staff make the real difference.

"There are various community grant facilities that the Vale Council run and I hope that a way can be developed where the Drop In Centre and Castleland Community Association can play their part. Community enterprise is just one of many."

Eileen Moore, the Drop-In Centre operations manager, welcomed the MP's visit.

GREATER DEMAND

"I was pleased that the Vale MP Alun Cairns was able to come in and discuss the work of the Drop In Centre Development Trust and view the new facilities at the community centre.

"Since the refurbishment, demand for the centre and services provided, such as volunteer and work-based placements, has increased dramatically.

"We had hoped to secure funding for staff to support this via the Voluntary Action Scheme fund and Communities First Funding, but our recent efforts have been unsuccessful.

"Whilst lack of funds is an issue, we will continue to provide our services with the valuable support of committed community volunteers, as we always have."

The GEM asked the Vale Council whether it would be able to help in funding of Drop In Centre staff and received an encouraging response for the volunteers.

Bob Guy, the operational manager for countryside and economic projects, said: "The council will consider requests for support on merit and will prioritise projects which align with strategic objectives and demonstrate good value for the limited resources available."

Beware fake notes!

THE Safer Vale Partnership has issued a warning to shopkeepers and the public, after worthless counterfeit £20 and £50 notes were used in the area.

Sgt Stephen Trigg urged: "Check your change carefully before you leave a shop. Counterfeit currency is currently in circulation and we want to track down where it has come from."

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Business club's 'exciting year'

£650 was handed out to charities

AT the annual meeting of Barry Business Club in the Mount Sorrell Hotel, the new chairman, Lynnette Knight, thanked outgoing chairman Ted Abuthnot and committee for an exciting year.

It had included guest speakers Eileen Younghusband, who entertained the club with stories of her life in the WAAF during World War Two working in the Filter room, and local fireman John Haskell, who shared his adventures and experiences rowing the Atlantic for charity.

During the year, the club donated £650 to charities chosen by various guest speakers.

The club also enjoyed some informal nights at local restaurants.

It meets every third Thursday of the month and new members are welcome. Further information from Lynnette, via The Mount Sorrell Hotel.



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| 3. Hawaiian | Mushroom, pineapple and ham (extra cheese) | | | |
| 4. Vegetarian | Mushroom, sweetcorn, onion, peppers and fresh tomato | | | |
| 5. Vegetarian Hot | Mushroom, fresh chilli, onion and peppers | | | |
| 6. Mexicano | Spicy beef, spicy chicken, jalapeno and peppers (extra cheese) | | | |
| 7. Pepperoni Passion | Double pepperoni, double cheese | | | |
| 8. Kebab Special | Chicken and doner kebab, onion & peppers (extra cheese) | | | |
| 9. Meat Feast | Pepperoni, spicy beef, spicy chicken, meatballs & ham (extra cheese) | | | |
| 10. Chicken Combo | Chicken tikka, roast chicken, Chinese chicken & tandoori chicken | | | |
| 11. Hot Shot | Pepperoni, salami, jalapeno, onion, peppers & garlic butter | | | |
| 12. American Hot | Pepperoni, onion, spicy beef & fresh chilli (extra cheese) | | | |
| 13. Tikka Tikka | Onion, chicken, tikka, peppers, American spicy sausage & mushroom | | | |
| 14. Romeo's Tandoori | Mushroom, onion, tandoori chicken & peppers | | | |
| 15. Seafood | Tuna, prawns, anchovies, olives & onion (extra cheese) | | | |
| 16. London Pizza | BBQ sauce, pepperoni, spicy beef, onion & American spicy sausage | | | |
| 17. Paris Pizza | BBQ sauce, roast chicken, smoky bacon, onion & peppers | | | |
| 18. Doner Pizza | BBQ sauce & doner slices (extra cheese) | | | |
| 19. Romeo Meatball | Spicy sausage, onion, meatball, pepperoni & green peppers | | | |
| 20. Chicken Special | Spicy chicken, Chinese chicken, onion, fresh tomato & peppers | | | |
| 21. Romeo Special | Pepperoni, BBQ chicken, onion, mushroom & peppers (extra cheese) | | | |

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Sea Scouts sound call for special 80th reunion..!

REMEMBER LAWRENNY CAMP, 1967?



THE 6th Barry Sea Scout Group celebrates its 80th anniversary this year and to mark the occasion a reunion for all its former members will be held on September 21.

It will afford the opportunity for all the former scouts to meet up and reminisce about the experiences and adventures they had in the group.

The troop was disbanded during the Great War, when Scoutmaster Major Hammond joined the army, but reformed again in 1933.

The photograph

(above) was taken during the summer camp held at Lawrenny in 1967. The site overlooked the Cleddau estuary, where much time was spent sailing and canoeing.

All members will no doubt remember, and enjoy recounting with others, their overnight patrol expeditions while rowing to Milford Haven.

Chris Ware, a former cub, scout and venture Scout, is attempting to contact as many ex-members as possible, especially those from the 1960s, to let them know about the get-together.

If you are an ex-scout, or are in contact with any old boys, he would

be delighted to hear from you on Facebook, search for '6th Barry', or by telephone on 09200 710786.

You can also contact the organiser, former Group Scout Leader Philip Walters by email, philip_walters@ntl-world.com or telephone 01446 741498.

Guide coffee
A COFFEE and cake morning will raise funds for the 10th Barry Guide Unit, on Saturday, May 25, (11.30am - 1.30pm) in Highlight Park Community Centre. Contact 07896 974268 or carolineturner1709@yahoo.co.uk

'It's time to retire' SAYS VALE JEWELLER

by PHILIP IRWIN

LATER this summer, there will be a real 'end of an era' moment when Lorraine Hales closes the door after 26 years running Cowbridge's, High Street Jewellers.

Lorraine told The GEM: "Deciding to retire and close the shop was the second-hardest decision of my life."

The shop has always been a family business, but even more so now, because Lorraine, her daughter Sally, and granddaughter Sophie all serve in the shop.

What's more, Lorraine says that the back of the shop is "like a creche" as her great-grandchildren, Noah, Harvey, Ava and Lola can often be found there – along with Benji the dog!

It all means that friends are constantly popping in to chat, see the great-grandchildren and visit Benji, who has his own fan club!

So, if deciding to close was the "second-hardest decision" – what was the hardest? Well, for Lorraine it



Lorraine Hales with granddaughter Sophie and her youngest great-grandchild Lola.

was having to decide, in 1998, whether to reopen the shop after she lost her husband Gerry.

The case is well documented in Cowbridge, and it remains the most shocking event in the town's recent history.

Gerry, aged 61, intervened when a raider attempted a 'smash and grab' at the shop. He was stabbed and died of his injuries.

Lorraine said: "Deciding whether to open up again after that was very difficult.

"However, I am so glad that I did, because I received so much help and support from the Cowbridge community."

She reflected: "I am 70 this year, and it

would have been our golden wedding anniversary, so it seemed an appropriate time to retire."

Lorraine hasn't any grand plans for her retirement. After all, those four great-grandchildren could take up a fair bit of her time.

The shop will continue with its retirement sale, and expects to finally shut the doors in August or September.

It is too early, she said, to speculate on who might move in to the premises.

However, one lasting memory that Lorraine will take with her is the support she had from the people of Cowbridge during those dark days.

Penarth Computer Club NEWS SNIPPETS

IT gets harder to cover the range of computing as it rapidly expands and everything is updated, so we have decided to introduce a short session during our meetings to highlight some of the latest news items.

This has been done from time to time already; usually to give an alert of potential problems from virus attack.

Any major development becomes a topic for a full meeting's talk and discussion, but our prime aim is to enable less experienced users (and absolute beginners) to be more at ease with their computer. With this we mix in guest speakers to broaden our horizons and keep the interest of longer term members.

Twenty years ago, members had to learn about DOS (Disc Operating System) to type in commands and navigate around the directories of files and to start a programme running.

Also twenty years ago the team in CERN (the guys building the Large Hadron Collider) devised something called Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) that enabled the World Wide Web to develop and change the world we live in. Thank you, Sir Tim Berners-Lee who made sure his work was free to the world.

Windows 3.1 meant we could use a mouse to click on icons and not bother with typing commands and IBM personal computers made home computing more affordable. The club coped well with all of that as people woke up to the possibilities and wanted

to take part.

The years of leaps and bounds in developments reduced mobile phones from house-bricks to match-boxes and digital photographs put paid to 35mm film photographs and slides. The WWW brought Amazon, Ebay and Wikipedia along with millions of web sites and on-line shopping.

Along came email for almost instant communication world wide at almost zero cost (followed by spam). Soon we could send documents and pictures as well.

Now we can see our home from the air, compliments of Google Earth, as well as view almost every street in many countries. We can download films and music, we can watch TV programmes in our own time by recording them or using catch-up services.

Using all these technologies we could learn to create and edit documents, be they letters, charts, spreadsheets, pictures, or music.

Telephone calls can be made over the internet at no cost. Nobody wants to do everything, but almost everybody wants to do something.

On top of all this the programmes, and the operating systems to handle them, are constantly evolving. Not to mention the hardware itself is improving in speed and capacity. You almost need a degree in market research just to choose which piece of kit is best for you.

Hence our 'News Snippet' service try-out. If we can see what takes our members' interest, we can perhaps do better to give them what they want.

Howard Desmond

Camera club backs festival

POSITIVE Image Camera Club is to support the Barry and the Vale Arts Festival, by supplying two print exhibitions and a tutorial, teaching beginners how to use Photoshop to enhance their pictures, under lecturer Guy Butler-Madden.

The arts group have mounted an exhibition in an empty shop, ex-Block Busters (opposite Wilkinson's in Holton Road, Barry) showing local folks' paintings, PIPS photographs, etc.

The main exhibition is in the Arts Central hall in the library on King Square, where art of various styles is on display; the main section is knitting, crochet in the shape of 3D

models from some flowers, up to a full size pushbike – and it's hard to believe, but a real VW beetle car is totally covered in knitting in very colourful patterns.

The walls display the work of PIPS members from modernistic prints, to prints of old images of Barry docks converted in the computer to 3D anaglyph (3D specs provided to see the 3D).

The group of hard working folk who run Barry Arts deserve our thanks for giving Barry a lift in spirit, by showing that ordinary folk of the town have the skill and ingenuity to show that, given the opportunity, they can contribute to a better community.

BB

Pupils' lessons in healthy eating

NEARLY 1,000 Waitrose shop partners, including eight from the Vale took the day out on Friday (May 17) to promote healthy eating in schools as part of the BITC Give & Gain Day.

Over 200 Waitrose branches were taking part in the initiative, in which Waitrose staff spend the day with local primary schools.

Waitrose Barry invited pupils from Palmerston Primary School to learn about healthy eating.

The BIG Fill Schedule - June

St Athan - 1 and 2 June
Rhoose - 15 and 16 June

Let us know of any potholes in your ward from Monday through to Friday prior to the weekend shown above



Tackling potholes across the Vale

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CONTACT US THE WEEK BEFORE WE ARE IN YOUR WARD

Dyslexia champion Ben's words leave Lords spellbound



Ben Lloyd and his family are pictured with the Vale MP Alun Cairns at Westminster.

A STUDENT from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg has taken his dyslexia campaign to the House of Lords.

Ben Lloyd has become one of the leading campaigners on the issue and was invited to share his experience with members of both Houses of Parliament.

A former Dyslexia Action Young Person of the Year, he and his family were joined by Vale MP Alun Cairns and following Ben's presentation they were taken on a tour of the Houses of Parliament.

Mr Cairns reported: "It was fantastic to welcome Ben and his family to Westminster and hear all about the

Dyslexia SpLD Trust.

"Ben did a tremendous job in presenting to the parliamentary reception attendees about the issues that have affected him in growing up with Dyslexia.

"As the Dyslexia Action Young Person of the Year a few years ago, and following his leading role in the production of 'My Dyslexic Mind' for CBBC's Newsround programme, Ben has already achieved so much in raising awareness about life with dyslexia.

"At the event, the Dyslexia-SpLD Trust proposed amendments to the Children and Families Bill. Ben's presentation was key in highlighting the issues involved."

Cyclist hopes to put Brake on road toll



ABOVE:
Graham Brain.

ON Monday (May 20)
Graham Brain, of Llancarfan set off on a national cycle tour from John O'Groats to Land's End – to raise funds for Brake, the road safety charity.

The ride will take Graham a total of 35 days, covering a distance of more than 1,500 miles and including a 4,409ft (1,344m) climb up Ben Nevis.

He will be calling at 10 extreme geographical points along the way and cycling for around 50 miles each day.

As well as reaching the highest point in the UK at Ben Nevis he will also travel to the lowest point, Holme Fen, the most northerly point at Dunnet Head, and across to the most easterly point at Lowestoft

Ness.

Graham has spent 24 years working in traffic enforcement and hopes this challenge will not only raise money, but also awareness of road safety.

He is also looking for companies, or individuals, to sponsor him and help Brake to continue providing support to bereaved or injured victims of road crashes.

To sponsor Graham, visit www.justgiving.com/GBExtremeTour2013.

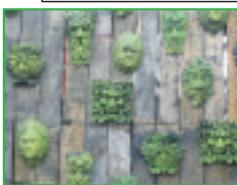
Graham said: "Every day five people die and many more suffer life-changing injuries in crashes on roads across the country and I'm hoping that this challenge will help to raise the profile of road safety and the excellent work carried out by Brake.

"I know this is going to be tough but this is an important cause and the support of fellow cyclists, sponsors and supporters will help to get me through," he added.

For information on Brake, go to www.brake.org.uk/

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VALE MP'S VIEWPOINT

'Why I voted for the amendment in the Commons Europe debate'

LAST week, I voted for the amendment to the Queen's Speech in the House of Commons that would bring about a referendum on our membership of the European Union.

Over the next few years, Europe is going to change significantly. The financial crisis in the Eurozone has meant that there needs to be an ever closer relationship between the countries that use the currency. Common taxation policies are highly likely.

Thankfully, we are not part of the single currency area, but we will be affected by the changes. Many will be wholly unacceptable to the British people.

This process is our great opportunity to change the relationship. It is an opportunity to revert back to the sort of Europe that we joined in the first place. A Europe based on trade and co-operation, rather than a federal super state.

The negotiations to bring about the changes are likely to start in earnest after the German elections later this year. This is why the Prime Minister supports a referendum in 2017. It is an opportunity to negotiate the changes that we want to see.

I want to see a more flexible Europe that respects the role of each individual nation. The single market needs to be completed and nations need to be allowed to better manage



**Vale MP
ALUN CAIRNS**
reports to
GEM readers

their borders.

All too often Europe's regulations mean that we are too restricted in responding to market changes.

To the Prime Minister's credit, he has already shown significant influence in some key areas; he is the only Prime Minister who has exercised the UK veto against an EU-wide financial services transaction tax. This would have affected every part of the UK more than any part of Europe.

More recently, few offered real

hope to see the EU budget being cut. Again, he delivered on this, receiving credit from all sides of the political spectrum.

The 2017 deadline is also important to rebalancing our economy. We are now growing our exports to China, Brazil, India and Russia, after a slow start over the last decade.

If we want to have a real choice in 2017, then it is in our interests to be less dependent on any one market and to use the intervening time to diversify.

Finally, many will say that even contemplating leaving Europe will damage our long-term prospects.

I would suggest that they were the same people that said exactly the same over us not becoming part of the single currency.

After all, President Obama this week described the situation quite well when he said, that it would be better to try to fix a relationship, before breaking it off.

The Prime Minister is committed to renegotiate our relationship with Europe based on one that is more flexible and focused on trade. I strongly agree with this.

At the end of the negotiations, there will be a referendum on whether the UK should remain part of the EU or withdraw. The Prime Minister has set a deadline of 2017.

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MAYOR'S PAT ON THE BACK FOR LOCAL VOLUNTEERS

MAYOR of the Vale, Coun Eric Hacker has hosted a reception for community centre volunteers – to raise awareness of the importance of volunteering and to thank them for their efforts.

Volunteers from 11 community centres across the Vale, including Barry, Penarth, Rhoose and Llancarfan attended the event at the mayor's parlour in Barry.

A total of 22 council-owned com-

munity centres are managed by volunteers and the Mayor thanked them all for the time and effort they had given to their community centres over the past year.

NEWS IN BRIEF

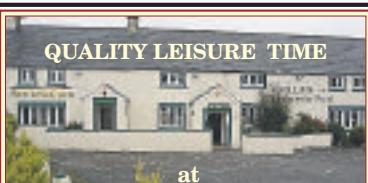
AGE CONCERN Cardiff and Vale is holding a Foot Fun free event at Barry Memorial Hall on Tuesday, June 25 at 10am-12.30pm.

Foot Fun is part of the Activities for Falls and Awareness and will offer taster sessions of activities in the Vale – Zumba Gold, Extend, Tai Chi and tap dancing from 10am-12.30pm; call Nona Hexter on 01446 732385, or Jane Platts on 01446 795631.

Welsh chat

A Welsh language and chat group meets on the last Thursday of every month from 8.30pm at the West End Social Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry; welcoming and easygoing group.

Whether you are fluent, learning, or just want to brush up, all are welcome. For more information, contact Anna on 07931849258.



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Runaway success for the bus heritage day



Rhymney Valley District Council 16 (YBO16T), a 1979 Leyland Leopard with East Lancs bodywork sees passengers get off at the bus depot Barry, after a round trip to Rhoose via the coast road.
(PHOTO BY TUDOR THOMAS)

CARDIFF Transport Preservation Group recently held its first ever 'Running Day' with a Municipal Bus theme from its 1930s centre The Bus Depot, in Barry.

Buses departed from the forecourt of The Bus Depot giving free travel every half hour on three different bus routes.

The single deckers, which included Leyland Leopards Islwyn Borough Transport 34, and Rhymney Valley 16, ran to Rhoose.

The double deckers included CTPG vehicles: a 1966 Leyland Atlantean (Newport 68); 1982 Volvo Alisa (Cardiff 407); 1969 AEC Regent V (Pontypridd 8), and two Leyland Titans from 1965 and 1968 (Caerphilly 32 and Bedwas & Machen 6) ran on two routes.

These included a semi-circular route to Barry Island, returning through the town's extensive suburbs and a route to Penarth via Sully.

Mike Taylor Chairman of the Heritage Bus Restoration group said: "We had a good day. It is always a concern when you organise some-

thing different and this was our first 'running day'.

"We were surprised to see a good mix of local people, young families, bus staff visitors and enthusiasts. In 2012 there was a big event called Barry at War for 50 years of the American troops coming to Barry Docks for the allied war effort and we ran a shuttle bus to the attractions.

"Without this, it left a gap in our calendar and we only decided in January that we should try a running day".

He continued: "It was a real surprise for Martyn Evans, one of our CTPG members to see his ex-Rhymney Valley District Council Leyland Leopard bus with 51 seats come to terminate at The Bus Depot and seeing 51 passengers get off!"

"It was touch and go if we would have our Cardiff Guy Open Topper ready in case the sun came out – it did, and the 49 year old bus ran full."

"Getting Caerphilly 32 and 1 together inside our bus depot was a treat and we are now preparing for our bigger Festival of Transport, this year on Barry Island on Sunday, June 9."

POLICE WARNING AFTER CAR CRIME SPATE IN BARRY

POLICE in Barry are reminding motorists about the importance of not leaving valuables in their cars when leaving them unattended.

In the Buttrills and

Dyfan area, several vehicles were targeted overnight between Saturday, May 18 and the following morning.

A total of 10 vehicles were broken into with possessions such as rucksacks, sunglasses and other personal belongings stolen.

Deputy sector commander, Sergeant Matt Rowlands, said:

"If you leave your vehicle unlocked or your possessions on display there is an increased risk that you will become a victim of crime."

"All too often, motorists leave personal belongings visible in their cars when they have parked and left them overnight.

"While car crime is at

a very low level in Barry, we believe the small number of motor vehicles that were targeted was an isolated incident.

"Additional patrols and activity have been planned by our neighbourhood team to reassure residents and to identify any vulnerable vehicles which are unattended."

"We are appealing to anyone who may have any information about these incidents to contact us."

"Anyone with any information about these incidents is asked to contact Sergeant Matt Rowlands at Barry police station on 101 or anonymously via Crimestoppers on 0800 555111."



Cogan Nursery School wins top team award

COGAN Nursery School in Penarth has been announced as the winner of the Pearson Teaching Award for outstanding school team of the year in Wales.

Selected from over 24,000 nominations received by the Pearson Teaching Awards in 2013, 62 celebrations took place in schools across England, Northern Ireland and Wales on May 17 2013 to present prestigious Regional Teaching Awards to outstanding local heroes of education.

The Pearson Teaching Awards are an annual celebration of exceptional teachers and teaching. Founded in 1999 by Lord Putnam, the awards recognise the life-changing impact of

an inspirational school on the lives of young people.

The Teaching Award judges said: "The nomination submissions from several parents for Cogan Nursery had provided us with high expectations. But, in so many ways, it was even better than our expectations.

"On entering the nursery we were immediately struck by its energetic and creative atmosphere. The nursery was buzzing with an enthusiasm for learning which, surprisingly, not only came from the children but came from the parents too."

The team from Cogan Nursery School will now join fellow winners at the UK final of the Teaching Awards on October 20, filmed in London and broadcast by the BBC.

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FEARS GROW FOR THE FUTURE OF LEGAL ADVICE AND SUPPORT

OUR former magistrates court in Barry, which provided access to justice for people across the Vale, was closed by the UK Government in 2011 – despite a strong campaign which united magistrates, solicitors, Victim Support, Women's Aid (*Atal y Fro*), the Vale Council, myself and many more.

It is greatly missed.

A few weeks ago, there was a further blow when a new Law came into force in April, which has removed access to legal support for many people.

Britain's most senior Judge, Lord Neuberger, and many others, have expressed serious concerns about this new Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012, which removes many areas of civil law from the scope of legal aid funding, such as personal injury, some clinical negligence, employment and education law cases, private family law, and some debt, housing and benefits advice.

It has been described by Robert Jones, a Welsh solicitor, as 'a mean measure, penalising the weak and vulnerable'.

Lord Neuberger has warned that if people feel they are being denied access to justice, they may

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Finance and Leader of the House)

end up 'taking the law into their own hands.'

With more people representing themselves, court hearings could take longer, increasing the workload of court staff and judges and ultimately this could end up costing the Government more.

Of course, many will not be represented by anyone at all.

The Legal Aid Bill was defeated 14 times in its passage through Parliament and was only just passed by the narrowest of majorities.

The former Legal Advice and Assistance Act 1972 enabled solicitors to give advice and assistance on housing, welfare benefits, debt,

employment under the Green Form Scheme and in 1993 advice centres, such as the CAB, were brought into the scheme.

This has now been scrapped and advice services and charities in Wales are already finding themselves under greater pressure as more and more people turn to them for support.

These legal aid cuts, and cuts to welfare benefits, as well as pressures on working households due to rising household and living costs, are having a devastating impact on the lives of many people.

Debt is a major problem and we are seeing a worrying rise in the number of payday loan lenders opening up on our high streets.

In Wales, the Welsh Government has pledged to fund Citizens Advice Cymru £2.2m a year until 2015 to support these volunteer-based advice services across Wales as more and more people turn to them for help.

LEGAL AID

Also, I have also been approached by solicitors who are concerned about the latest proposals for 'Transforming Legal Aid' which affect criminal legal aid.

I am advised that these changes will result in the complete dismantling of the criminal defence system and 'downgrading of legal advice and assistance is not only inevitable, but is actually envisaged within the proposals.'

My constituents fear that large scale unemployment across the country will be inevitable, not only of the solicitors and their paralegal and secretarial/support staff, but also their secondary suppliers, together with the closure of most high street offices.

Legal Aid has formed part of our commitment as a society to help with the cost of legal advice for people who cannot afford it.

The UK Government's new legislation and administrative changes will turn the clock back and arguably could cost the Government more in terms of the unintended consequences of removing this support from people when they most need it.

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'YOUNG APPRENTICES A CREDIT TO WALES'



APPRENTICES from Aberthaw Power Station are pictured at the Senedd with their managers, to meet Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, who gave them a tour of the building.

The Vale AM explained: "Over the next two years, we are increasing our funding for apprenticeships by £40million providing extra support for employers, colleges and apprentices to boost their skills and job opportunities."

"I was very impressed with the Aberthaw apprentices, including two award winners in their team. They also study at Bridgend College and were confident, good communicators."

"The Welsh Government is giving apprenticeships priority in a time of funding pressure and constraint, and these young people are a real credit to their industry and to Wales."

Vale issues appeal for more foster carers

VALE residents are being urged to 'take the first step to fostering today', as the Vale Council launches a campaign to recruit more foster carers.

'A Vale Child Needs Vale Foster Carers' aims to keep foster children in the Vale, rather than finding placements in other counties.

Coun Chris Elmore, cabinet member for children's services, said: "When a child moves into foster care outside their own county, they leave their family, their friends, their school and their support network.



LEFT:
Foster carers Kay and David Griffiths from Llantwit Major

home.
"The Vale Council's fostering team welcomes applications from people from all walks of life, whether interested in providing foster care for respite, emergency, short-term or long-term placements."

For details, contact 01446 729 600, email fostercare@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk, or visit www.valeofglamorgan.co.uk to fill in an online form.

WI LADIES' DAY IN BRECON...

MAY has been a merry month for St Athan WI.

The changing face of the public library was the topic for the talk at the monthly meeting and members were amazed and delighted to learn of the range of services now offered.

On Saturday, May 18 26 ladies set off on a

day out, incorporating a ride on Merthyr Mountain Railway, lunch and shopping in Brecon and finally a sunny evening cruise on the Brecon canal.

All agreed that it had been a lovely day and thanked Cath Thomas for arranging everything in her usual calm and competent way.

The annual Whist Drive on May 29 is another date on the calendar and is likely to be well supported as players always enjoy WI catering.

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'North Barry residents concerned about house proposals' says councillor

A Barry councillor says local residents are concerned about proposals to build 200 homes on a greenfield site at Weycock Cross.

Plaid Cymru's Ian Johnson visited an exhibition by Taylor Wimpey last Friday and spoke to people from Pontypridd Road, Nant Talwg Way, Highlight Park and Cwm Talwg.

Coun Johnson told The GEM: "Residents told me that they were concerned about over-development in the north of Barry and the impact of another 400 cars

on Port Road. They also expressed concerns about some of the claims being made – including good public transport and links with Barry town centre."

Coun Johnson pointed out that 2011 census figures indicate that projected population figures could be over-estimated by up to 40 per cent.

He added: "There is a serious question as to whether these proposals are meeting demand or leading the market."

ADVERTISMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their service.

Branch Manager Phil Powell feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is steamed up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many people have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their home as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole."

Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Port Talbot areas and Phil is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've

done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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LOCAL GIRLS ARE TOP-NOTCH FUNDRAISERS FOR VELINDRE

A NINE-YEAR-OLD girl from Ystradgwen – along with two friends – has raised a remarkable total of £350 for Velindre Hospital in Cardiff.

Alys Phillips from Ystradgwen, Maddie Daley from Talygarn and Hannah Davies from Llanharan, all aged nine, have over the last few months been raising money for the cancer hospital.

The three girls all go to Pendoylan Primary School, and earlier this year organised a table top sale in Ystradgwen.

Alys's mother, Helen, told The GEM: "Since then they have done another sale in Pure Indulgence, Pontyclun,

where they sold handmade bracelets, cards, cakes, bird food, and sock monsters.

"They visited Velindre Hospital recently and handed over the money they had raised to date, which was an impressive £350.

"They also received a certificate for fundraising, a few goodies and the fundraiser coordinator was extremely grateful and impressed by the amount the girls had raised.

"The girls have worked very hard and we are very proud of them."

RIGHT

Alys Phillips, Maddie Daley and Hannah Davies were welcome visitors at Velindre Hospital.



Threatened bus route is saved

THE Vale Council has announced that it has secured the future of Bus Service 320, which travels from Talbot Green to Cardiff via Hensol, Pendoylan, Peterston super Ely and St Fagans, after Watts Coaches recently withdrew from their contract with the council.

In a slightly revised timetable, service 320 will also serve St

George's super Ely on two journeys each day and will commence on Monday June 10.

The bus is funded by the council, with assistance from the Welsh Government and Cardiff Council and operates six days per week throughout the year.

Budgetary pressures, as a result of the reduction in the level of Local Transport Grant funding from the Welsh Government, along with a significant rise in the cost of providing bus services generally, has meant that Bus Service 322, which currently

travels from Barry to Cardiff via Peterston super Ely, St George's super Ely and St Fagans will end on Friday, June 7.

The new operator of Bus Service 320 is New Adventure Travel. They can be contacted by telephoning 02920 442 040.

All bus timetables can be found on the council's website at: http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/living/transportation/public_transport/bus_timetables.aspx.

Cathedral School launches its brand new Sixth Form

ACKNOWLEDGED by The Times on September 1, 2012, as the top co-educational school in Wales at GCSE, the Cathedral School is building on these strong foundations with the launch of its Sixth Form in September 2013.

The Cathedral School Sixth Form will offer very small classes, highly experienced staff with close university links and an ambitious and supportive culture in equal measure.

With a range of more than 20 A-Level subjects, it will bring freshness, excitement and intense focus for pupils who would like to be part of a unique sixth

form experience, not simply 'run of the mill', within a genuinely co-educational context.

Work is under way on the new Sixth Form Centre, which will open in readiness for GCSE results day in August.

Financial support is available for bright pupils at year-12 entry (and year-7), with scholarships for especially gifted children – academic, music, sport – and means tested bursaries worth up to 100 per cent of fees.

For further information, visit www.cathedral-school.co.uk; or contact the registrar, Mrs Pam Critcher on 029 2083 8504 or email registrar@cathedral-school.co.uk

Good away win for Cavs' second team

LLANTWIT Major Cavaliers Second XI travelled on a glorious Sunday afternoon to play Neath fourths in a SWCA Saturday League Fixture.

Shane Callard won the toss and asked Neath to bat first on a cracking Gnoll pitch. They totalled 114 for 7 from 40 overs, with opener Elliot Bradley top scoring with 32, closely followed by Gareth Rees.

The best bowling came from Andrew Williams (2 for 8 off 5 overs) and Dave Cheal (1 for 23 off 10) while Phil Vincent, Gareth Hughes and Joe Jenkins also took a wicket each.

After a fantastic tea, the Cavs set about overhauling the Neath total and, with the exception of an unfortunate duck, all the batsmen chipped in with useful contributions, as the Cavs won the game in the 30th over.

The Cavs finished on 115 for 6. Gareth Hughes top scored with 26 with Shane Callard finishing on 22 not out.

Neath had two young ladies playing for them, one who kept wicket very well and H Lake who bowled six very good overs for 22 and took a fantastic overhead catch at mid-on.

Next week both Cavs teams play Felinfoel with DC

Sixth Form begins September 2013



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Colcot pupils' ugly bug ball!

NURSERY children at Colcot Primary School recently enjoyed an Ugly Bug Ball as part of their topic on mini-beasts.

All week, the children helped to prepare the food for the ball. On the day of the ball they came dressed as spiders, ladybirds, caterpillars, butterflies, bumblebees and worms.

After dancing and games they enjoyed a feast of 'snail' sandwiches, 'ladybird' biscuits and 'spider' cakes. Staff and children had a good time.



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Bobath Cymru's appeal for £5 sponsors...

'Miss two cups of coffee a month and help children who have cerebral palsy'

SINCE he was three years old, Dewi Davies, who has cerebral palsy and is dependent on his Bridgend family for all his needs, has been attending Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales for specialist treatment.

As the youngest of three children, Dewi's parents realised that there were problems with his development as he was not hitting milestones.

His mum, Tammy, explained how he was referred to Bobath Wales and the difference it has made to the whole family.

"After being referred by his consultant, we were seen by a physiotherapist who immediately referred Dewi for tests. After many blood tests, a CT scan and a MRI, Dewi was diagnosed with cerebral palsy.

"After Dewi's first therapy block with Bobath, we saw wonderful changes. Dewi was unable to take weight on his legs at the beginning of the block, but by the end with great delight he took a little bit of weight when supported.

"It gives me and my husband great joy in knowing that someday Dewi may walk with the help of mobility aids. Something we had not let ourselves hope for.

"Dewi has now completed his second block of Bobath therapy, and is getting closer to the goal of walking. Without Bobath, Dewi would not be able to do half the things that he can do today."

Bobath Wales' annual Sponsor a Child Appeal asks the public to sponsor a child like Dewi by giving up the equivalent of two cups of coffee every month and instead make a £5 donation to help provide specialist therapy to children from all over Wales who have cerebral palsy.

For as little as £5 a month, they can sponsor a child to make Bobath Children's Therapy Centre Wales' 21st birthday year.

Gail Griffiths, Bobath Wales fundraising manager said: "Giving up £5 a month will help us to expand our capacity so we can see more children like Dewi who need us. Because the gift is a regular one, it will

help us plan in the knowledge that we have some money coming in every month."

Visit <http://www.bobathwales.org/sponsor-a-child>. For further information, contact the fundraising team on fundraising@bobathwales.org or call 02920 522600 or visit www.bobathwales.org.

Garden open day raises £2,000 for charities

HUNDREDS of visitors supported the first Garden Open Day organised by the National Garden Scheme in Dinas Powys.

gramme but visitors could access the garden on route.

Well over £2,000 was raised for cancer charities and also the local Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

Mr John Fanshaw, chair of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern, said he was delighted with the support from the public and was grateful for the financial contribution. All charities are facing a difficult time and this donation was very welcome.

The next Dinas Powys open day will be held on Sunday, July 28.

As usual, there was an army of workers who assisted in the open day, and their help was essential in ensuring the event was such a success.

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Charity day

STAFF at the Spar, Cowbridge, are holding a fundraising day this Saturday (May 25) 9am-5pm, collecting for the NSPCC and Sands (which offers support when a baby dies during pregnancy or after birth).

There will be a sponsored exercise bike ride, raffle (many of the prizes donated by local businesses), bottle tombola, cake sale, 'name the monkey'.

Drumming workshop

JOIN Art4U for a Djembe drumming workshop run by Glyn Pooley on Saturday, May 25, at Victoria Park, Cadoxton, Barry, from 11am. Workshop free and open to all; donations appreciated.

Church invite

THE public is invited to see the new doors at St Tathan Church and "have a cup of tea and a chat" while buying plants, home-made cakes, cup cakes, bric-a-brac and/or Fairtrade goods at 10am on Saturday, May 25.

Family service

ALL SAINTS Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, will be hold-

ing a family service at 10am on Sunday, May 26, on the theme 'Who is the Holy Spirit?'

There will be worship items suitable for all ages and refreshments are served afterwards. Creche facilities available.

All are welcome. For more information, visit www.all saints penarth.org.uk

Gardening club

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be on Thursday, May 30, in the Lesser Hall at 7.30pm, when Clayton Radford will give a talk on 'all year round gardening'. New members welcome.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, May 29, at 10.30am, the Coffee Shop Strollers Barry Hub meet at Cold Knap, Barry, outside the Bridge Cafe.

On Friday, May 31 - Sunday, June 2, the Vale of Glamorgan walking festival takes place. For details, see www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk

Guides sought

THE 3rd St Athan Guides will be 50 this year, and are asking GEM readers to help

them track down former members to join in the celebrations.

Contact pinkclarebear@hotmail.com or telephone 07738 950101 for further information.

Classic cars

THE inaugural Vale of Glamorgan Classic Car Show takes place at Sully Sports and Leisure Club, on Bank Holiday Monday (May 27, 10.30am start) when more than 250 classic cars are expected to be on display.

Adults £2.50, children admitted free. It is being organised by the Rotary Club of Dinas Powys.

Cabinet meets

VALE Council's cabinet will be holding a community question and answer session on Tuesday, May 28, from 6pm to 8pm in the Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys.

The meeting is open to the public, who will have the chance to question the cabinet on any Vale issues.

Easy gardening

THE next meeting of Llantwit Major Horticultural Society will take place on Wednesday, May 29, at 7.30pm in the Llantwit Hall, Llantwit Major.

It sees the return of regular speaker, Kevin Thomas, talking on low maintenance gardening.

You do not have to be a member to attend; all are welcome and entry, refreshments and raffle are free of charge. Contact secretary, Sylvia Geary, on 01446 792087.

Walking festival

THE Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival takes place, May 31-June 2.

The festival offers 21 varied walks over three days, taking in rolling countryside, cliffs, beaches, scenic villages and historic market towns.

All walks are free, but car park charges may apply. For further information or to book a walk, call 01446 749000 or email walkfest@valeways.org.uk

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Fabulous doggy fun day out at Fonmon

THE organisers of the second South Wales Dog Charity Fun Day at Fonmon Castle Show Ground on Bank Holiday Monday, May 27, have an amazing array of attractions and displays, with something for the whole family.

their paw at: agility, fly-ball, time trial, gundog scurries, lure coursing, sausage catching, musical mats, temptation alley and the sausage race! We also have a separate terrier and lurcher show.

A vast array of charity and trade stands will be there too. They will be selling lots of dog related items such as dog coats and beds, hand-made treats, dog food and treats, collars and leads, bandanas, pet portraits and even a vet!

We also have trade stands selling homeware, furniture, jams and preserves, cakes, jewellery, scarves, pottery, photographers and large selection of plants and garden containers, ready for your garden.

There is the chance to win a free vehicle pass every day up until the event by entering our dog photo competition. Just upload a photo of your pooch on our Facebook page to enter.

This will be a fabulous fun day out for the whole family!

For more information, please go to

www.fonmoncharitydogshow.com and our

Facebook South Wales Dog Charity Fun Day page and Twitter @SouthWalesDogCh.

South Wales Dog Charity Fun Day

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www.fonmoncharitydogshow.com

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Luhrmann's Gatsby is good, but not great!

ONE of the finest novels of the 20th century, *The Great Gatsby* has already been adapted for the big screen in 1974, with Robert Redford in the title role.

However that hasn't stopped Baz Luhrmann from attempting his own take on the source material in his first film since 2008's *Australia*.

Tobey Maguire plays Nick Carraway, a young man caught up in the lavish lives of a group of socialites including Tom and Daisy Buchanan (Joel Edgerton and Carey Mulligan) and, of course, the mysterious Jay Gatsby (Leonardo DiCaprio).

Drawn into their circle, Nick becomes privy to all sorts of details that will cause drama and heartbreak...

To take on a novel widely regarded as one of the greatest of the 20th century takes a certain amount of chutzpah, but for Baz Luhrmann it's just another job – after all, once you've adapted Shakespeare (and gave it a shot in the arm that made younger audiences take another look at the bard's work) with *Romeo and Juliet* then you can feel confident enough to tackle any literary source.

Luhrmann's theatricality has always been his calling card – and his Achilles heel – with critics complaining that his histrionics sometimes detract from the story he's trying to tell.

It's a charge that many will level at this adaption of *The Great Gatsby* but, while his tendency for sweeping dramatics is more than pleasing to my eye, it's the lack of depth and sheen of superficiality that leaves this film more good than 'Great'.

Kicking off the film by using his own framing device (one that on paper seemed disrespectful but on screen works wonderfully), the film soon becomes singularly Luhrmann's, all expansive zooms and pull-outs, booming (modern) soundtracks married to a sumptuous visual sense.

It may not be 'of period' but



by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

those who have read the book will be impressed at how the director has turned description to reality. The homes and locations are incredibly evocative of Fitzgerald's prose.

But while Luhrmann deserves plaudits for this, he deserves criticism for being unable to deliver the substance under the style.

While the story unravels much as in the book, the characters themselves don't fully realized. At no point do you sense the longing of Gatsby for Daisy, the emotion of Daisy trying to make a life-changing decision, or Nick's growing love of Gatsby.

The script, written by Luhrmann with regular collaborator Craig Pearce, reconstructs the story well but just doesn't nail the emotional core, nor the slowly building doom as the party comes closer and closer to being over.

The film is well-acted, Leonardo DiCaprio built for the role of the playboy with a darker longing and his performance is impressive, as is Cary Mulligan's, whose glittering world belies a lovesick loneliness that can never come to the surface.

The best performances, however, come from Tobey Maguire, who invests Carraway with an innocent sensibility corrupted by the people around him, an accomplice slowly seduced by the bright lights, and Joel Edgerton, who gives Tom

Charity fun day

TY HAFAN will again be staging its annual Fun Day on June 30, in the grounds of this hospice at Sully, from 12pm-6pm.

The day will include classic cars, bouncy castles, craft stalls, police dog show, fairground rides – and a tug-of-war tournament.

"Whether you're already a supporter, would like to learn more about the hospice, or simply looking for a fun day out come on down to Ty Hafan and let us entertain you!" a spokesperson urged. Members of the Care Team will be available to host tours giving an insight into life at the children's hospice.

For further information, contact events@tyhafan.org. Add reply@tyhafan.org to your address book now.

VALE THRILLER

A NEW thriller set in the Vale of Glamorgan has been released by Y Lolfa publishers.

Blood Month by William Vaughan, is a detective story set in a fictional boys' boarding school in Llanover, where a young teacher chances upon the body of the unpopular headmaster.

It is the author's first attempt at an adult novel following the publication of three novels for children and young adults. Born and educated in Cardiff, William Vaughan has taught English and history at schools in Leicestershire and Cardiff.

Buchanan an arrogance and attitude, his sense of entitlement burning through the character.

If Luhrmann had managed to bring in the depth and emotion that the book has in droves then this would be an incredible affair; instead as the film progresses, the emotion just doesn't kick in and by the end, even Luhrmann's direction becomes muted; a noble attempt for sure, but one that fails in its attempts at greatness.

VERDICT – Stylishly executed but lacking in the emotional depth that would have made it soar, *The Great Gatsby* is definitely a Baz Luhrmann film, and works well in terms of its visual sense, but strip it down to the dramatic core and, even with skilled performances, it just lacks that little bit of depth. Enjoyable.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED:
Moulin Rouge! (2001), *Citizen Kane* (1941)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Summer fayre

THE Nottage summer fayre is being held on Saturday, June 8 at St Davids Church, Florence Street, Nottage, at 12.30pm.

Attractions and refreshments, sandwiches, hot dogs and strawberries with ice cream.

Tondu art show

TONDU and District Art Society holds its summer exhibition at the Len Evans Centre, Aberkenfig (near Bridgend, one mile from Jct 36 M4) from June 15-18 at 10am-6pm daily (11am-4pm on Sunday).

Free entry, light refreshments, raffle.

Diabetes Collection

DIABETES UK is looking for volunteers in the Vale to help co-ordinate a 'Big-Collection' weekend at local Tesco stores on October 4, 5, and 6 and raise hundreds of thousands of pounds, as part of a major national charity partnership.

You can visit www.diabetes.org.uk/tesco-collection-weekend, or call 02929 668276 for more information.

Winner's talk to Scott Society

DAVID FARROW has told the Cardiff-based Captain Scott Society about his adventures in Kurdistan, where, as a member of the

Cambridge University mountainaineering team, he attempted climbs on a number of previously unconquered peaks.

Each year, the Scott Society expeditions committee selects its 'Spirit of Adventure' award winner from a wide range of

applicants. The award is worth £2,000, although some winners in the past have commented that it is the prestige associated with the award, rather than the money, which counts most.

The society looks in particular for a 'first' and the award is available to any individual or group undertaking an adventurous pursuit that exemplifies Captain Scott's spirit of adventure.

Contact either Jack Wright (expeditions secretary) on 02920 54869 or Julian Rosser (chairman) on 02920 626715.

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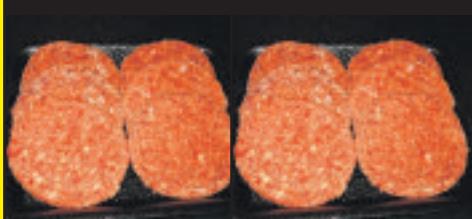


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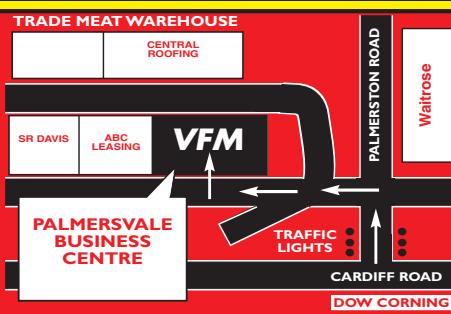
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SCOUTS GO WACKY AT THE ANNUAL RACES!

SCOUTS from the Vale district were again invited to take part in the annual 'Wacky Races' push kart Grand Prix extravaganza.

In the weeks running up to the event, held in the indoor facility at St Richard Gwyn High School, Barry, the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers were busy constructing and decorating their karts, which were all built to the same specifications.

Help was on hand from parents and local businesses with some of the more technical aspects of the construction, then when the karts were ready, they were transported to the venue for safety checks by the scrutineers.

Team managers assembled their racing crews in the pit lanes and a welcome and safety briefing was given to competitors and spectators by 'race director' Simon Miskin.

With the track cleared, the racing fun began and a 'Le Mans' style time trial got under way, the greatest number of laps in eight minutes.

Teams changed crews every two laps to ensure that all the Scouts had a chance to take part.



St Athan Beavers pick up speed.

The racing was in age groups to ensure fairness, and by the end of the afternoon, all the crews were quite exhausted.

The penultimate race was a four laps relay; one lap for Beavers, one lap for Cubs and two laps for the Scout section.

A very tense and exciting race ensued, with everyone cheering their respective teams and shouting encouragement. Independent lap counters, aided by three safety marshalls, ensured that potential incidents on track were kept to a minimum.

The last race was a leaders and parents race; using the same karts and subject to the same rules, the crews put on safety helmets and wore neckers identifying the Scout

group's colours.

Five laps of the track with no changeovers put extreme pressure on the adults' fitness and tested the kart's mechanics and build quality to the limit.

The Llanllyfni Major pushed the envelope too far and suffered a rear suspension and axle failure (the wheel fell off!).

That left the teams from Cowbridge and St Athan to battle out the last lap, running wheel to wheel at one point.

Eventually, the kart driven by 'veteran' driver Gill Clay, engine supplier Gethin Charles and Mike Furnham, was declared the winner...by the width of a tyre!

Everyone had a hectic but enjoyable time, and although there was obvi-

ously some competitiveness involved during the races, all the participants were glad to have taken part and left with some wonderful memories of yet another very successful event.

A special thank you to the refreshment crew, Annelie Jenkins and her team who provided the 'fuel' to keep us all going throughout the afternoon!

At the close of the event, certificates of participation and medals to individuals in first, second and third places and trophies were awarded to the individual team, 'Le Mans', 'Grand-Prix' and relay champions.

This is the second year the Vale District Scout Council has run this event and it just keeps getting better, the Scouts love it!

Next year, we might even be able to race outside on an even longer track.

If you would like to join the adventure and become an adult volunteer involved with Scouting, please contact Simon at Vale@catvog.org.uk.

Without the adults to support Scouting in the Vale, fantastic events such as this one would not be possible.

SIMON MISKIN
District Commissioner,
Vale District

MP walks a mile for Atal y Fro

This year, there was a marked absence of (male) walkers in high heels!



VALE MP Alun Cairns, took part in the 'Walk A Mile In Her Shoes' event in Barry last weekend to help raise awareness about the causes and effects of sexual assault and domestic violence.

Atal y Fro (previously Women's Aid) in Barry is an organisation dedicated to the elimination of domestic abuse, and the Vale MP joined the many

men – fathers, uncles, brothers and sons – in the sponsored walk along Barry Island Promenade recently.

Mr Cairns commented: "I was delighted to be asked to take part in the walk once again this year, having seen first-hand the work and support provided by Atal y Fro over recent years. I was only too happy to support them by donning a pair of women's shoes for the sponsored walk."

...AM also adds her support

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, who helped start up the first Women's Aid refuge in Wales, joined Atal y Fro, Bro Radio and all those who took part in the fundraising and awareness-raising 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' event at Barry Island on Saturday, May 11.

She commented: "It was great to see the walkers set off on Barry Island this year, in their high heels, wigs and outfits, supporting Atal y Fro which provides vital services for women and children in the Vale of Glamorgan.

"This walk was timed so well, as the Welsh Government takes forward new legislation to end violence against women."

OPEN GARDENS

THE following gardens will be open for charity under the National Gardens Scheme in the Vale over the weekend of May 25 - 27.

Llanmaes Gardens, Llanmaes, Llantwit Major, CF61 2XR.

LLANMAES, a mile from Llantwit Major, is a pretty village with an attractive village green and stream running through, and a C13 church. Old Froglands is an historic farmhouse with streams and woodland areas linked by bridges. Ducks swim and chickens roam free.

The vegetable plot is now productive. Plantings are varied with interesting foliage.

West Winds is a work in progress. It was a beautiful and much-loved garden that sadly became overgrown and is now being reclaimed.

Pathways weave through terraces

with balustrades, wooded areas and lawns with views over the village and open fields.

The garden has a full range of aspects from deep shade to full sun, and is shared and enjoyed with a diverse collection of wildlife

Open: Sunday May 26 (11am - 5pm), £4.

St Quintins Cottage, Cowbridge, CF71 7JT

THE garden of St Quintin's Cottage was designed by renowned garden designer Ralph Hancock and features his signature 'herringbone' paving.

Stone terraces and sloping lawns are linked by winding paths and steps, to ornamental ponds with cascades.

A 1940s garden providing an intimacy of place rather than exotic planting. Some unlevel paving and unfenced ponds.

Open: Sun May 26 (2pm - 6pm), £3.

Pride and Prejudice fans can test their knowledge

PROUD of your Pride and Prejudice prowess?

The competition is hotting up between Bridgend county borough's Jane Austen aficionados, as Bridgend Library and Information Service's search for the county borough's 'Pride and Prejudice' mastermind gets into full swing.

Celebrating 200 years of the classic novel, the initial stages of the competition have seen fans of the book going head-to-head in branch library finals ahead of the grand final at Bryngarw House on June 9.

With Portcawl and Pyle libraries' champions already decided, there is still time to sign up for the remaining

branch finals: Bridgend Library on Wednesday, May 29 at 2.30pm; and Maesteg Library on Thursday, June 6 at 10am.

To find out more about the competition or to get involved, contact Bridgend Library on 01656 754830 or Maesteg Library on 01656 754835.

If you love Jane Austen but the competition isn't your cup of tea, why not watch the final?

Tickets for the final are £7.50 and include sandwiches, cream scones and tea. Advanced booking is essential.

For more information visit www.grandpavilion.co.uk or call the ticket hotline on 01656 815995.

Barry Leisure Centre OPEN DAY

Sunday 26th May, 10am-3pm

Bring your kit and have a go at these fun taster sessions - All FREE to take part

Multifit 10.00-11.00, Trilaster spin bikes 11.00-11.45, Pilates/Situps 11.00-11.45, Zumba 12.00-12.45, Bownercise 1.00-1.45, Body Blast 2.00-2.40 with a stretch off to finish from 2.45-3.00.

Swing Dance taster session from 1.00-1.20 for all the family

Bring your trunks for a dip in the water and take part in our water activities, aqua, water polo and much more.

Expressions - gym experience with a chance to race your friends and family on our state-of-the-art Dream Interactive fitness (1hr)

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POLICE HONOUR 'OUTSTANDING EFFORTS' OF LOCAL OFFICERS



ABOVE: Chief Supt Liane James presents Kristy Evans with her award.



ABOVE: Janine Ireland receives her award.

THE hard work of police officers and staff who go above and beyond the call of duty has been recognised at the South Wales Police Central BCU awards ceremony.

The event was held at Barry Memorial Hall to celebrate the outstanding achievements of officers, staff and partner agencies over the past 12 months in keeping the communities of Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan safe.

A total of 14 awards were given out, ranging from accolades for exceptional bravery, leadership and teamwork to lifetime achievement.

A number of divisional commander's commendations were also presented in recognition of outstanding work throughout the year.

The ceremony was funded entirely by sponsorship from local companies.

Central BCU divisional commander, Chief Supt Liane James, said: "The ceremony gives us a platform to recognise officers and staff who go above and beyond the call of duty."

"On a daily basis as divisional commander, I see first hand the excellent work that these individuals and teams undertake to keep our communities safe.

"In the past 12 months, there has been a five per cent fall in crime across Bridgend and the Vale. These figures are very much a testimony to the hard work and dedication of our officers and staff and I feel privileged to work alongside such colleagues."

"They have made a tremendous difference to the communities of Bridgend and the Vale and I am immensely proud of their achievements over the past year."

She thanked the event sponsors: Best Western Heron Hotel, Parkdean, Days Rental, The Kitchen Design Studio, Burnett Davies Lettings, Maes Glas Veterinary Group, Vale Resort, Bro Radio FM, and Felicity Jewellers.

THE WINNERS

Bravery – Mark Child and Kristy Evans.

Police Constables Child and Evans disregarded their own safety to rescue a woman from a house fire in Brynheulog, Bridgend.

Customer service – Rebecca Merchant of Bridgend CID.

Detective Constable Merchant has received countless thank-you cards and letters from victims of crime and their families for the outstanding service she provided them while investigating crimes.

Investigator – Andrew Price

Detective Constable Price was described as an outstanding member of Barry CID since 1998, and recently detected a spate of burglaries in Penarth, with the suspects given prison sentences.

Diversity – Fiona Haggerty of Maesteg works in a location which has traditionally had problems with hate crime and vulnerable repeat victims.

She has led on tackling these issues, having put in place numerous supportive and investigative action plans which have seen significant reductions and an increase in tolerance, trust and confidence.

Community Officer – Janine Ireland of Aberfan.

An outstanding Police Community Support Officer, who strives to deliver the best possible service to her community. Her positive and professional approach to work continues to make a difference to the communities she serves.

Specials – Daniel Boyle

Special Constable Boyle is a valued and outstanding member of the Bridgend Neighbourhood Policing Team who has shown a total commitment to the communities of Bridgend.

He has regularly requested to work nights on weekends, many of which have included international rugby dates and bank holidays.

Excellence – Mark Rees from Barry.

PC Rees is an outstanding officer who disrupts the lives of local criminals, racking up over 400 arrests in the past three years.

He is a positive role model and his working practices motivate others and he is an excellent example to junior officers within the division.

Leadership – Sue Sidford of the Penarth and Vale Sector

Acting Chief Inspector Sidford showed outstanding leadership of the Public Protection Unit which she managed for five years, creating a culture of excellence.

Lifetime achievement – Nicholas Kihlberg.

Sergeant Kihlberg signed up to the RAF in 1979



ABOVE: members of the 'Extra Mile' Barry volunteers are presented with their awards.



ABOVE: Insp Steve Rees receives the award on behalf of Fiona Haggerty.



ABOVE: Chief Supt Liane James presents Megan Hughes with her award.

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Sergeant Kihlberg signed up to the RAF in 1979



ABOVE: Sgt Nick Kihlberg (right) received a lifetime achievement award.



ABOVE: Rebecca Merchant receives her award.



ABOVE: Andy Price receives his award.



ABOVE: Daniel Boyle receives his award.



ABOVE: Acting Chief Insp Sue Sidford receives her award.

Town's new orchestra

THE newly-formed Porthcawl Community Orchestra meets on the first, third, (fifth) Sunday of each month, 6pm – 8pm, in Our Lady Star of the Sea church hall, New Road.

The cost is £2 per session, and refreshments are served. Grade 3 standard is desirable. For more information, telephone 07861 600667 or e-mail porthcawl.orchestra@outlook.com. JB

Arts festival

THE Barry Arts Festival exhibition at Art Central in Barry was formally opened last weekend by Vale AM Jane Hutt, in the presence of the newly-elected Vale Mayor, Councillor Margaret Wilkinson, and Councillor Gwyn John, cabinet member for the arts.

In opening the exhibition, Ms Hutt praised the work of all the contributors and urged people to support the event. She was then able to present the showpiece wallhanging, depicting local scenes, to Melanie Carter, director of ValePlus and Paul Bumford and Jack Bayley Loyn.

ValePlus members who were part of the project team.

ValePlus, a local charity that provides learning and leisure opportunities for disabled people, played an active part in the festival, contributing to the central piece of the wallhanging.

Melanie Carter thanked all those who contributed to the wallhanging, which will now be displayed in ValePlus at the close of the exhibition, and invited people to attend an open day at ValePlus in High Street in Barry on Friday, June 14.

CROWN COURT ROUND-UP

by AJ SICLUNA

Jail for Pencoed woman after brewery theft

A CREDIT controller at a leading Welsh brewery has been jailed for 15 months at Cardiff Crown Court for stealing nearly £61,000 from her employer.

Judge Stephen Hopkins QC said that a probation report on 50-year-old Marion Jenkins indicated "that she had little remorse and also possessed a certain arrogance".

Jenkins, of Woodstock Gardens, Pencoed, pleaded guilty to a charge of stealing £60,942 belonging to SA Brain & Co Ltd.

Last May, she was convicted of theft and fraud involving the same company and received a nine-month sentence.

In 1991, said prosecutor Tony Trigg, she appeared at Gloucester Crown Court and received a suspended sentence for stealing £4,000 from another employer.

Mr Trigg said that last June, while serving a sentence for the initial theft from SA Brain, further thefts came to light.

Mr Trigg said that when cash payments were made to the company by smaller businesses, she would "pocket" the money and account for it by moving credit transfers from bigger accounts.

She got away with it, he said, between April 2006 and November 2011, without any of the thefts being discovered. When arrested, she admitted taking the £60,942.

The total loss to Brains was £73,576. Her solicitor Najeem Majid, said she deserved credit for her guilty plea.

"She is the author of her own misfortune. She could have drawn these matters to the attention of the court at the previous hearing.

"She cannot blame anyone else, and is now open about her circumstances.

"She coped with the

previous prison sentence and she will cope again."

Mr Majid said she had hit hard times and struggled to get by.

"But she should not have resorted to crime."

He said she had come to court prepared for immediate prison sentence.

Judge Hopkins said that what Jenkins had done was to "cover up the audit trail".

He said the two thefts from the company had merged.

He added that in the probationary report, she had indicated that because Brains was a large company, they could cope with the loss and she had not spent any of the money on luxuries.

"It has to be said you were in a substantial position of trust," the Judge added.

A community order for Porthcawl man

FOR what was described by a judge at Cardiff Crown Court as "an unpleasant piece of violence," a 21-year-old Porthcawl man has been made subject to a community order for a year.

Window fitter Alexander Nutty of Fenton Place, had admitted assaulting Robert Jones. He was also in breach of a 12-month suspended sentence for possessing mephadrone.

For the assault, he was also ordered to undertake 100 hours unpaid work and to observe a 20-week curfew on Saturdays and Sundays from 9pm-5am with electronic tagging.

He was also ordered to pay his victim £150 compensation plus prosecution costs of £250.

For the breach of the suspended sentence, he was fined £100 and ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £60.

Judge Philip Richards said the injury the victim received was relatively minor, and Nutty had no previous convictions for violence.

said the assault was "an unpleasant piece of violence". He was involved with others and his responsibility was not as great as them, he said.

Prosecutor Gareth James said the assault took place in the centre of Bridgend when Nutty was with two friends.

There was an altercation with three other people, and during the attack, Nutty joined in at the end.

Mr Jones was punched a number of times.

When arrested, Nutty claimed he had been the victim but accepted delivering a number of punches when he saw his friends fighting.

He was said to have previous convictions for disorderly behaviour and possessing mephadrone worth £1,000 with intent to supply in Swansea.

His solicitor Rhodri Chudleigh said the injury the victim

received was relatively minor, and Nutty had no previous convictions for violence.

Suspended sentence for Kenfig Hill man

POLICE who were called to a disturbance in a South Cornelly garage searched one of those involved and found him in possession of drugs.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Darren Ward (26) of Commercial Street, Kenfig Hill, admitted being concerned in the supply of cocaine, possessing the drug, producing cannabis, and possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

He was jailed for 48 weeks, suspended for a year, made subject to a supervision order for a year, and directed to carry out 150 hours unpaid work.

In addition, he was made subject to a 16-week 8pm-6am curfew, with electronic tagging and ordered to pay costs of £160.

Judge Philip Richards said it was obvious Ward had been supplying the criminal fraternity, a group who cause great misery.

"Your involvement in drugs revealed features about you which are not just criminal, but worrying."

He added: "Your use of drugs will do you no good at all, and cocaine is one of the hardest drugs on the street."

He said he took into account that Ward was about to be a father, and happily, he was in employment.

Therefore, he said, he was giving him a chance to avoid prison.

Judge Richards warned him: "Lay off drugs, I can't make it clearer than

that."

Prosecutor Gareth James said that one night last August, police were called to a disturbance between Ward and a taxi driver at the Esso garage, South Cornelly.

Ward was searched and officers found cocaine and cannabis on him. His home was searched and there the police found a cannabis plant and a further amount of cannabis.

He told officers that the cocaine was for personal use, as was the cannabis.

But messages on a mobile phone made it clear he was dealing in cannabis and cocaine.

"In essence, he was dealing with no financial gain, but was assisting in the sourcing of drugs," said Mr James.

He added: "He gave others the means to obtain drugs."

Ward was said to have convictions for driving with excess alcohol and causing criminal damage.

His barrister, Owen Williams, said: "This man has a good work ethic, and holds down two jobs.

"There are positive features about him. The offences were triggered by the breakdown of a relationship when his life took a downward turn.

"He realises that what he did was wrong, and these proceedings have focussed his mind. Custody would have a devastating impact."



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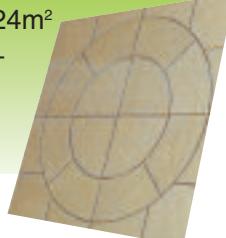
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Charities benefit from Llandow motor circuit classic car fundraising event



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Visit our studio in the Wool Barn,
Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

A charity track day at Llandow motor circuit near Cowbridge on Wednesday, May 15, raised funds for a popular local cause, the Ed Evans Foundation, and for a national one, Combat Stress, the ex-Services mental welfare society.

The event provided an opportunity for drivers to experience speed in their own cars in a safe environment. Local clients of Combat Stress were invited to take passenger rides in a wide range of cars, which included Ford Escort, Mazda MX5, BMW M3 and a Porsche 911.

The day has been sponsored by Bells Engineering of Slough and organised by Christopher Darwin from Devon.

The Ed Evans Foundation was established in 2006 and has already raised over £130,000 for Cancer Research Wales and other charities. For more information on the foundation, go to: www.edevansfoundation.co.uk.



C5 proves a competent performer

THE size of a boot is extremely important, especially if you have a growing family, like me.

And so it is disappointing that so many hatchbacks and saloons lack in this area. Even the Jaguar XJ, while having a seemingly long one does not have the necessary depth for bulky items.

It is, therefore, refreshing to find that the Citroen C5 has a cavernous boot, large enough to swallow a cumbersome tandem pushchair as you can see in the video at testdrives.biz.

I am impressed. Externally, the car's rear doesn't look ugly either; in fact, on approaching it early one morning, from the side it looks like a Mercedes C-class thanks to the similar styling.

It is also helpful that the rear seats split and fold as well as featuring a useful hatch for long awkward items to run the length of the car.

When I tested the Jaguar XJ last week I was surprised that this model didn't have split fold rear seats owing to the fact that they were electrically adjustable.

My eyebrows remain suitably raised when I open the doors of the C5 and find the rear windows fitted with sun blinds that easily pull up and down. They effectively shield little passengers Harriett and

Heidi from the bright sunshine that has finally decided to appear during the road test.

Inside there is a feeling of being fairly low to the ground thanks its stance on the road, helping it feel quite sporty. It does seem to be quite a wide car and despite possessing reasonable spatial awareness, I find manoeuvring it a little tricky, although I'm still able to reverse park into a fairly tight spot without trouble.

As regular readers will know, I do suffer from a bad back and when I tested the Jaguar XJ last week I foolishly over-used its seat massage function, which has subsequently resulted in severe back pain.

Exercise, as always, is helping – but this experience has made me even more critical of drivers' seats.

The electrically adjustable and heated one in the Citroen could do with a better lumbar support but that's my only complaint.

The C5 is a capable family car and provides a comfortable ride. However, it is also quite a sporty saloon thanks to a sports mode function, which provides a more punchy performance while a sports suspension switch hardens the ride. The six-speed auto box can also be used as a manual for greater driving pleasure.

A little way into the test, I realise that the striking steering wheel rotates around a fixed column, complete with cruise control and radio functions.

This takes a little getting used to, especially if lazy hands rest on it. I have not driven another car with such a unique steering wheel. It's a good idea because, for instance, in my wife's old Fiat Punto, if you're going round a roundabout and want to turn the volume down it can be tricky with the steering wheel mounted controls invariably being upside down.

The C5 is also equipped with all the luxuries today's motorists would expect including sat nav, all round electric windows and air conditioning.

The rear window coated in early morning dew does take a long time to demist, though.

Motorway cruising is made easy by cruise control, which keeps the set speed within one or two mph, regardless of incline.

Over long distances, the adjustable front centre armrest provides added comfort for the driver and front passenger.

Externally, when savouring the stylish C5 from the side there are the smallest welcome hints of the past from the distinctive CX, SM and GS models of the '70s and '80s. Good design does draw on the past, in my opinion.

**MOTORING with
TIM SAUNDERS**



ABOVE:
The Citroen C5 2.0 HDI 16V Exclusive

Overall, this economical diesel is a competent performer and that cavernous boot scores very highly with me.

2.0 HDI 16V Exclusive (160bhp) (Techno Pack)
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FACTS AT A GLANCE:

0-60mph: 9.7secs.
Top speed: 130mph.
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Remembering the heroes of the convoys

DURING this Year of the Convoy, we attempt to reflect on and remember lost and loved ones and the many fallen of the Merchant Naval Service – the bravery of those who kept the wartime supply lines open.

Without such provisions imported, the population would have starved and the country lost. We honour further the many from the Vale and all who sailed from Barry Dock.

During the Year of the Convoy, Arctic Star medals have been presented to veterans at 10 Downing Street and remembrance and tribute has taken place for the Arctic Convoys, with further Arctic Stars received at Loch Ewe, where veterans vowed to continue to seek the Ushakov – Gallantry award, both for survivors and those lost.

More locally: the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Service at the Merchant Seafarers Memorial, Cardiff Bay, took place on Saturday, May 18, at 11am (a Battle of the Atlantic Remembrance).

The Glamorgan Wartime Heritage Centre at Barry Island opened on Wednesday, May 22, for those wishing to visit or record memories with the centre's recording equipment.

A red ensign, and other MN artifacts and display material, ensure



ABOVE: The Merchant Navy monument in Cardiff Bay.

a perfect place to reflect.

Barry is to pay its respect to those of all convoys and will ensure the red ensign of the Merchant Navy is flown today (May 23) at the Memorial Hall.

Associated forces and national flags, including the red duster, will be flown at the Vale Council offices during daytime the same day.

Members of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) Barry branch will lay a wreath at the MN Monument at 11am on

May 23. *The combined forces events culminate in Liverpool over the weekend with more national commemorations (May 24–26).*

The local Heritage Centre at Barry Island Railway station will again be open to visitors on May 26, a perfect opportunity to bring along and record MN memorabilia.

The museum will continue to open for further events during the year of the convoy 2013.

JIM GREENAWAY



ABOVE: The Merchant Navy Memorial in Barry.

SPOOKY TALES with Hayley Williams

PHANTOMS ALSO ENJOY THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY!

The Month of May

THE colourful month of May is named after the Greek goddess of fertility, Maia, and its traditions date back to the Pagan rituals relating to the last month of the spring season. May has two bank holidays, the first being May Day (Belatine) which was a celebration of Celtic traditions where bonfires were lit to mark the beginning of summer.

May Day, commemorated on the first Monday in May was designated a bank holiday in 1978.

Whitsun and Whit Monday, however, fall at the end of May, where fêtes, fairs, pageants, parades, the consumption of Whitsun ales and Morris dancing were all part of the festivities.

CELEBRATIONS

These were days of celebration where young men and women danced on the village green with a decorated felled tree (usually birch) at the centre of the festival.

Branches were cut off the tree and the trunk decorated with coloured ribbons tied from the top. Whit Monday was declared a holiday in 1871 when an Act of Parliament was passed.

Whitsun (Whitsunday or Whit) is traditionally the Christian festival of Pentecost, the 7th Sunday after Easter, which has some similar traditions to the feasting of May Day.

During the Middle Ages, holidays involved Morris dancing and villagers would collect blossoming flowers and decorate to the maypole.

A piper would then play tunes for them to dance around it, wearing colourful clothing and belts. Today, the costume is more elaborate, with white clothing and a red sash.

Whitsun was symbolised by the dove during the Middle Ages where these birds of peace were taken to churches throughout the land to be blessed. People from this era often carved out wooden doves or even created birds using the art of paper folding, or origami.

Rose petals would also be collected for the occasion to shower the clergy during the reading of the story of Pentecost. The ancient flower of columbine (which is Latin for dove) is also a symbol of the month of May.

Whitsun is believed to date back to the 12th century, where carvings of The Green Man would mysteriously appear in churches throughout the British Isles, as green was said to be the colour of life.

The Green Man was also believed to be the God of Woodlands, so he was obviously an ancient 'God' portraying the beliefs of its time.

Also on Whit Sunday, keepers of lighthouses would illuminate their buildings recognising the symbol of fire, another custom of its time.

Welsh folklore tales maintain that fairies dance around the fairy ring at dusk on Whit Sunday, and any witness to this silent action are believed to obtain good luck for the year ahead. This tale is another slant from legends of Mabinogion, which means tales of youth in the Welsh language, and have been passed down through time.

WHEELS ON FIRE

Wheels of fire were rolled down the hillside, and livestock would be guided through the flames as a sign of purification, a custom which is now resigned to history books. Another belief involved Druids worshipping trees as a religious ritual.

If hares are found close to your home, they are deemed as witches in disguise, and luck would never cross your path for the year ahead, especially if they were killed, another belief concerning the month of May.

History also has interesting facts concerning events surrounding the month of May from a bygone era. For instance, on May 8, 1945, VE Day (Victory in Europe) was celebrated, the Roman god Mercury (son of Zeus) marked his birthday on May 6, and the more macabre events included the burning at the stake of Joan of Arc on the 30th in 1431, and the death of King Arthur in 542 on the same date.

The ghostly figure of a lady dressed in a long flowing gown and presenting herself with long scraggly hair has often been associated with the month of May.

She is chased by riders on white horses thundering through villages to capture her. But who could this maiden be, and why would she have to flee from a supposed cavalry?

SINGING IN SILENCE

A re-enactment of a mediaeval (or possibly Roman) feast occurs late at night on the evening of the third Tuesday in May where a phantom scene of unrecognisable people seem to sing, dance and huddle around a small bonfire on hillsides around the countryside, yet these actions are said to be performed in silence.

Could the people of yesteryear be unwilling to abandon their celebrations from the Christian calendar?

Phantom officers wearing military uniforms have been reported to patrol the area of their old base at St Athan at dusk throughout the month of May, yet no explanation can be found for their appearance.

Could the participants of World War Two be reminding the living of their bravery during such a fierce battle, or just phantoms revisiting a barracks which celebrated the end of the War?

But fact or fiction? Only you can decide ...

HAYLEY WILLIAMS
hayley.williams550@yahoo.com

Two Blue Flags for Porthcawl



ABOVE: Lesley Jones, chief executive, Keep Wales Tidy; Alun Davies, Minister for Natural Resources and Food; Coun Lyn Morgan, cabinet member for well-being; Adrian Roberts, Bridgend County Borough Council.

THE quality of Porthcawl's beaches at Rest Bay and Trecco Bay has been recognised with both retaining Blue Flag status and winning a Seaside Award from 'Keep Wales Tidy'.

They were among the award-winning beaches from across the country being celebrated in a special ceremony at Rest Bay with Alun Davies, the Minister for Natural Resources and Food.

Organisers 'Keep Wales Tidy' announced that a total of 33 beaches and five marinas in Wales have been awarded the coveted Blue Flag this year in honour of their high standards of water quality, environmentally sustainable management, safety measures, cleanliness, and excellent facilities.

This is the 13th consecutive year that Rest Bay has earned the right to fly the Blue Flag, and the ninth for Trecco Bay. They are also among the 107 top beaches that are able to fly the distinctive yellow and blue

Seaside Award as recognition for their standard of bathing water.

Coun Lyn Morgan, Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "These awards are more than just accolades to boast of or flags to fly – they symbolise the huge amount of effort which goes into making our coastal areas clean, green and safe."

"We are fortunate to have some outstanding beaches in Wales, and BCBC is particularly proud that both Rest Bay and Trecco Bay in Porthcawl are among those receiving recognition; not least because the criteria for achieving Blue Flag status has become more stringent."

"This really is fantastic news for the many families and surfers who use these beaches all year round."

"Whilst Blue Flag is an environmental award, it also makes a significant contribution towards our tourism industry and will ensure that visitors from across the world keep coming back to Wales in the years to come."

Cadet Warrant Officer Megan Hamblin has 'retired' at 20!



CADET Warrant Officer Megan Hamblin (20) of 372 (Barry) Squadron has 'retired' as an Air Cadet after seven years in an action-packed career.

Megan has risen through the ranks to the highest rank of Cadet Warrant Officer. Her career has included flying in military aircraft, gliding, sport, shooting, hill walking, leadership courses, camping, attending summer camps at RAF stations as well as fundraising for the Royal Air Forces Association and numerous other organisations.

Highlights include achieving her Duke of Edinburgh Gold award, serving as Lord Lieutenant's Cadet, and sailing on the Challenge Wales boat, which took part in the Diamond Jubilee sailing pageant.

Megan said: "I have really enjoyed my ATC career, learning many new skills and undertaking many new experiences I would never have dreamed of doing."

"I would encourage

the cadets to fully grasp the amazing opportunities which are available to them. I am looking forward to becoming an adult instructor and giving something back to the next generation of Air Cadets".

Megan has risen to the challenges available to her; she has worked hard and gained many new skills, experiences and confidence which will stand her in good stead for the future".

The Air Cadets are now looking forward to a full training programme, including flying, gliding, shooting, adventurous training, sports, field craft training, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and overseas visits.

JASON HORTON
The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays, 7pm-9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Contact the Squadron on 01446 747734, or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information.



ABOVE:
Wing Commander Ken Pudney promoting Megan to Cadet Warrant Officer.

NEWS FROM THE PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

GELLIGROES LINK WITH THE TITANIC DISASTER

A LOCAL school, the Siloh chapel, a tramroad, railway line and corn mill stood in the small village of Gelligroes in the 18th and 19th centuries and now only the chapel and mill survive, with the disused railway line becoming part of a national cycle route.

But the refurbished corn mill holds its own secrets. From a small shed, young Arthur (Artie) Moore conducted experiments in engineering and with wireless telegraphy, receiving world news that he was able to pass on to the villagers before it appeared in the press.

For the first time in 1897, Marconi successfully transmitted a message in Morse code across open water between Lavernock Point and Flat Holm and as a result of this, Artie Moore became part of history.

After teaming up with Richard Jenkins, they taught themselves Morse code and began to send messages up the valley to Mynddyslwyn on rather crude amateur radio equipment.

However, on April 14, 1912, Artie received a distress signal coming from the supposedly unsinkable *Titanic* which had hit an iceberg on its maiden voyage from

Southampton to New York, but no one would believe him until the disaster was reported in the press two days later.

When told of this feat, Marconi, who owned the radio equipment on the *Titanic*, was most impressed because he thought the signal only had a range of 500 miles when, in fact, it had travelled 3,000 miles, and he had secured Artie employment.

As rain fell, the ramblers headed out of the village to make their way to Wyllie where in 1926, the Wyllie Colliery opened and the village named after Lt Col Alexander Keith Wyllie, director of the Tredegar Iron and Coal Company was built to house the mining community.

In ancient woodland, the ground was covered with bluebells and at Ffynnon-y-Gwaed, a very inquisitive rhea, who was in a field with sheep, came up to the gate to welcome them.

Joining the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway footpath, they paused for morning coffee before tramping on to open moorland, following a beautiful tree-lined track that zig-zagged downhill to Ty Isaf with its fine barn conversions.

In sunshine, they approached the slopes of Mynydd Dimlaith and carpets of bluebells adorned the hillsides and woods at

Coed Margaret-Shon and Coed Ochr-ddu before a heavy shower hit them in open fields overlooking the tips and the village of Llanbradach.

Lunch was enjoyed in the woods, before the group crossed farmland, which was boggy in places, on their way to re-join the Rhymney Valley Ridgeway. By road and green lane, they returned to Gelligroes, where a well-earned drink was enjoyed in sunshine in the beer garden at the Halfway House.

On May 25, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate/hard walk in the Llanharan area; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On May 27 (Bank Holiday Monday), meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile moderate/hard walk taking in Hay Bluff and Twmpa; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

On May 30, the evening walk will leave Cosmetown Country Park at 7pm to explore the Lavernock area; contact Joy on 01446 737131.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

WHO WANTS TO BUILD WHAT, AND WHERE?

Mr Paul Twamley – Parkmount, Bridgeman Road, Penarth – Works to front garden wall to include 1. replacement entrance gates; and 2. rebuilding of existing stone wall complete with railings over.

Mrs Alison Phillips – Fron, Wellwood Drive, Dinas Powys – Construction of new two-storey rear elevation extension with associated internal and external works to residential property, including partial attic conversion.

Mr Derek Marles – Ty Llywd, II Bridgeman Road, Penarth – Taking down of chimney stack to side of house.

Mr and Mrs Lyn and Helina Rees – 32 Fontygary Road, Rhoose – Rear extension/internal remodelling and completion of partly completed loft conversion.

Mrs Leah Evans – Gwern y Steeple, Peterston Super Ely – Front and rear single storey extensions and a detached garage.

Mr and Mrs W Thornton – II Greenbanks Drive, Barry – Ground floor extension to existing dwelling.

Mr Liam Foy – Southmead, Llandow – Change of use of residential outbuilding in connection with upholstery and furniture business.

Persimmon Homes (East Wales) – Land adjoining White Farm, Merthyr Dyfan, Barry – Re-plan application for revisions/repositioning relating to 15 housing plots approved under reserved matters application ref 2010/00123/RES.

Ms Abby Mercer – Tesco Stores Ltd, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff – Relocating the existing hand car wash and valeting operation to nearer the store entrance; installation will include the erection of a canopy, installation of an office and concrete wash pad.

MDA Renewables Ltd – Land at Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry – The erection of a single wind turbine along with associated works 31.5m to hub with blade diameter of 27m.

Mr S J Wright – St James Stables, Llanmihangel Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge – Extension at ground floor to increase the size of the kitchen and an extension at first floor to create a new bedroom with en suite shower room.

Mr Sean Gaffney – 15 Borough Close, Cowbridge – Two storey extension on rear elevation.

Mr Martin Anthony – 13 Sandringham Close, Barry – Attached garage, extension to kitchen and dining room.

Mrs Lynette Williams – Part of the curtilage of the original Pwll-y-Myn Farm, Peterston super Ely – Construction of a two storey detached dwelling and a single storey garage adjoining.

Mr Stephen Bullen – 6 Dryden Road, Penarth – Hip to gable and rear dormer roof extension.

Mr Robert Harry – Land adjacent Old Port Road, Penarth – Alterations to front elevation to introduce doors and windows and new railings and part wall to front perimeter.

Dinas Powys RFC – The Common, Dinas Powys – Levelling, to include drainage, of the training area of Dinas Powys RFC.

Boyer Planning Limited – Land at Plasnewydd Farm, Cowbridge – Construction of menage for exercising/training horses.

Mr James Robert Coleman – 22 Slade Road, Barry – Raised decking at rear.

Mr Jonathan Case – Hollybush Cottage, Stalling Down, Cowbridge – Proposed double garage and stable/agricultural storage.

Mr Richard Coleman – Woodlands House, Lockwith Road, Llandough – Low impact carbon neutral eco house and detached eco wellness centre.

Mr Robert Harry – Land at Green Lane, Dinas Powys – Proposed new replacement stable building.

Mr Limbrick – 32 Buttrills Road, Barry – Formation of rooms in roofspace with gable build up and front and rear dormers.

Mr N Humphreys – 84 South Road, Sully – Rear single storey extension; amendment to permission ref 2012/01076/FUL to include balustrade and privacy screen to perimeter of (rear) flat roof.

Ms Nicole Daniels – 5 Daffryn Close, St Nicholas – Reduce large conifer tree.

Mr Matthew Price – Highgate, Church Road, Llanblethian – Dismantle one Cotoneaster, one Ash, one Sycamore and one Laburnum. Dismantle one small Ash and cut back Holly.

Mr Charles Frodsham – 6 Dyster Road, Penarth – Conservatory.

Mr Nigel Esterkin – 29 Holton Road, Barry – Proposed change of use from A1 (shops) to A3 (restaurants, cafes and food takeaways).

Mr William Jenkins – 6 Orchard Close, Wenvoe – Erection of conservatory to rear and erection

of replacement boundary wall 2m in height.

Mr Che Ahmed – Rear of Unit 7, Redrups Ltd, Cardiff Road, Barry – Change of use from existing car sales/overflow car parking area to a vehicle and scrap metal salvage business.

Mr and Mrs Gwyn and Jane Evans – 12 Lakeside, Cold Knap, Barry – Erection of a single storey rear extension, alterations to the ground and first floor windows and the formation of a balcony.

Mr Elizabeth Llewellyn – Pear Tree Cottage, Marcross – Alterations and sub division of premises for creation of self-contained holiday cottage.

Ms Jane Fraser-Brown – Oakways Farm, Peterston super Ely – Proposed single storey dwelling with detached garage.

Penarth Ex Servicemen's Club – 69 Windsor Road, Penarth – Alterations to front elevation to introduce doors and windows and new railings and part wall to front perimeter.

Dinas Powys RFC – The Common, Dinas Powys – Levelling, to include drainage, of the training area of Dinas Powys RFC.

Dr John Azami – Ty Tanduwen, Bonvilston – Ground floor kitchen extension to side/rear. Remove flat roof and build first floor extension.

Dr Alastair Roees – 51 Plus Taliessin, Penarth – Conversion of existing integral garage into habitable room, replacing existing garage door with new trifold door.

J V Tree Services – Cherry House, rear of 41 Park Road, Barry – 10 to 15 per cent tree reduction, thin and reshape.

Mr Russell Harbron – Flat 5, 25 Victoria Square, Penarth – Attic bathroom extension.

Mr Paul Draper – 35b Albert Road, Penarth – Amendment to the roof shape of the dormer to enable the details to be discharged in relation to the proposed alteration.

Mr Michael Clinch – St Richard Gwyn High School, Argae Lane, Barry – Remove a two-classroom portacabin building and replace with a larger portacabin seven-classroom building to provide additional teaching facilities and provide enough space to contain a school library facility.

Mr Steven Madeley – Cliffon House, Treoes – Erection of a single garage and driveway. Removal of existing car port.

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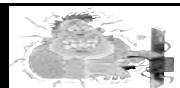
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Family Notices**JAMES****Anthony John**

On May 16 at his home in Marcross, Tony (AJJ), husband of Ann, dearly loved father of Jason and much loved grandfather of Jordan.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fommon. Funeral Friday May 24, service and interment 1.30pm. at Marcross Church. Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

COLLINS (Cooker) John

Very much loved son of Alan and Joan and special brother to Debbie. He was a loving father to Cath, Alex, Lauren and Hayley and grandad to Ava and Jac and a favourite uncle to Sarah Jane.

Funeral Service in St Illtud's Church Llanwit Major on Friday, 31st May 2013 at 1pm, followed by cremation at Croychurch Crematorium at 2.15pm.

Flowers may be sent to W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llanwit Major, 01446 792489.

Wedding Announcement

Congratulations
to our darling daughter

Rhian Orchard
and son-in-law to be

Julian Griffiths

who will be celebrating their wedding on 25 May 2013 in Scotland.

We would also like to wish them all the love, luck and happiness they deserve on their special day and on their new journey together.

*Sending loads of love xx
Mum, Dad and all your family and friends xxx*

Lots of love,
Mum & Stu, Luke,
Bodhi & Dylan,
Grandma, Grampy & Mogg xxxxxx

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**WILDLIFE AND
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ACT 1981****NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT**

**AN INSPECTOR APPOINTED BY
THE WELSH MINISTERS
WILL ATTEND AT
ROOM F38, DOCK OFFICE,
BARRY DOCKS,
BARRY CF63 4RT
ON**

TUESDAY 25 JUNE 2013 AT 10.00 am
TO HOLD A PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY AND TO
SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINE:
WILDLIFE & COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 –
VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER
2011 – FOOTPATH 75, BARRY

The effect of the Order if confirmed as made, will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding to them the footpath commencing from Point A (NGR 308870 168313) on the Order Map at Flond Cwm Cidi, following a 5 metre wide tarmac track in a westerly direction, turning west south west after 47 metres and south west after a further 68 metres, then continuing for 59 metres until the path ends the tarmac track at Point B (NGR 308716 168253) and enters into a tarmac forecourt. The path proceeds south east through the forecourt with a width of 5 metres for a distance of 11 metres to Point C (NGR 309724 168246). From Point C, the path then adopts a south westerly alignment for 29 metres proceeding with a width of 1.2 metres over the hard standing of an underground sewage works to terminate where it crosses into the boundary of Parharry Country Park at Point D (NGR 309704 168222).

The purpose of the Inquiry is to enable the Inspector to hear representation from those persons who have objected to the Order. Any other interested persons may also attend and be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Inspector.

Helen May
Authorised by the Welsh Ministers
WE WELCOME COMMUNICATIONS IN WELSH AND ENGLISH

**ALEXANDER
Margaret Elizabeth**
24th May 2012

There is an agonizing void where you should be, Maggie, but you left me 42 years of amazing memories to help sustain me. There are no words adequate to express how much I loved you - so I'll just say "be seeing you, old lady!"

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Parkwood Porthkerry 5 brings out top class athletes, and Sunday fun run competitors

PHOTOGRAPHS
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The 'Parkwood Porthkerry 5' took place on May 12 with serious athletes and more relaxed fun runners taking on the five-mile challenge.

Participants ranged in age from teenagers up to more mature runners.

GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to take these images of the competitors.



Rhoose paddlers battle wind and tide in Surf Ski Race



ABOVE: Kathryn Gardner, William Parker, Lauren Blake and Kelsea Peterson.



Bernie Phipps and Mandy Lane.



ABOVE: Sue Blake and Paul Gardner.

A TOTAL of 39 paddlers competed in the 34th Rhoose Ski Race, hosted by Rhoose Lifeguards recently, when a steady south-westerly breeze and incoming tide made for a two halves.

A hard upwind paddle against the tide was followed by a swift downwind paddle with some ripples caught.

Many thanks to all those who took part, helped with the organisation and the accompanying 'fun day' for the kids. Special thanks to Andy and Michele Wall and Steph Williams for organising the barbecue, raffle and kids' games, Simon Perry and the SLSA Wales IRB Crews. **RESULTS:**

Under-16 boys 6km: Kelan Phinnemore - Pen-y-Bont; William Parker - Rhoose; Lewis Crompton - Pen-y-Bont.

Under-16 girls 6km:

Kelsea Peterson - Rhoose; Leah Harris - Pen-y-Bont; Tayla Edgerton - Rhoose.

Under-19 boys 8km: Ashley Lewis - Pen-y-Bont; Tom Parker - Rhoose.

Under-19 girls 8km: Kathryn Gardner - Rhoose; Lauren Blake - Rhoose; Kirby Redrup - Rhoose.

Open men 12km: Sam Moore - Sker.

Open ladies 8km: Riah Spickett - Rhoose.

Masters men 8km: Craig Robinson - Pen-y-Bont; Simon Parker - Rhoose; Mike Childs -



Kids ready for the fun day races.

Sker. Masters ladies 8km: Liz Wong - Rhoose; Andrea Phinnemore - Pen-y-Bont.

Open double 8km: Sarah Bryant and Steve Baker - Rhoose; Sue Blake and Paul Gardner - Rhoose; Mandy Lane and Bernie Phipps - Rhoose.

Overall Results:
Rhoose 93pts; Pen-y-Bont 46pts; Sker 12pts.



ABOVE: Steve Baker and Sarah Bryant.

VALE BRASS BAND FINISHES FOURTH

AFTER weeks of rehearsals, the Vale of Glamorgan Brass Band entered the south east Wales BBA contest at Ebbw Vale on Saturday (May 18) with high hopes.

The standard was high, and they were pleased to secure fourth place and later learned they were just one point away from third.

The next contest is west Wales BBA at Burry Port on October 5, and a south east Wales BBA at Blaenavon on November 23.

TUDOR MAKES A BOLD BID FOR WELSH TITLE

by
BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE'S James Tudor is making a bold bid for the Welsh Point-To-Point

Riders' Championship and last Saturday at the Gelligaer Farmers meeting, which saw the end of the season in south Wales, he had a double with *Howya Buddy* (confined) and *Rosies Peacock* (mixed open).

Howya Buddy, who was winning for the third time on the bounce, clocked a time which was some seven seconds faster than when the eight-year-old had won the restricted at the Tredegar Farmers a fortnight earlier.

Making every post a winning one, *Howya Buddy* won by 12 lengths ahead of the favourite, *Dunraven Prince*, with *Classic Chance* (Rachel Leyshon) a further 25 lengths away in third place.

Rosies Peacock led three fences from the midpoint to beat the pacemaking *Midnight Diamond* (Matthew Barber) by three lengths.

Homebred *Rosies Peacock*,

made all to win at Howick at the end of April, won the members in similar style under his trainer Matthew Barber, coming home two-and-a-half-lengths clear from *Mac Halen* (Charlotte Prichard).

Keith Prichard's five-year-old bay mare *Watch The Birdie*, who had lost her maiden tag a fortnight earlier at the Tredegar when racing over two-and-a-half miles, had little difficulty in staying the extra half mile when beating the favourite *Always Archie* (Bradley Gibbs) by eight lengths in the restricted.

The four, five, six and seven year olds open maiden went to Robert Williams's *Hunk Dory* who, ridden by his son Nick, scored by four lengths from *Danny Maggs* (James Tudor) after making most of the running.

Caroline Marles's homebred *Dustara*, who came home 10 lengths ahead of Tudor's mount *Karazaaf*, looked at one time destined for the knackers yard, owing to a number of back and feed problems.

However, a lot of tender loving care and patience by his connections has given his trainer former Welsh champion rider Rhys Hughes, assistant trainer to Tim Vaughan, his first winner between-the-flags.

John Miles's *Gallaflynn*, who

was chalking up his 17th success, could now go for the John Corbet Cup at Stratford on June 9, although a run at the Pembrokeshire at Trecoed on Whit-Monday is not out of the question.

This season Tudor, who won the national title in 2006/2007, has been riding regularly in Wales for the first time since he started race riding and Bradley Gibbs, who notched-up his 19th winner of the season when winning the eight-year-olds and over maiden on *Dustara*, is his main rival for the title.

Carron Marles's homebred *Dustara*, who came home 10 lengths ahead of Tudor's mount *Karazaaf*, looked at one time destined for the knackers yard, owing to a number of back and feed problems.

However, a lot of tender loving care and patience by his connections has given his trainer former Welsh champion rider Rhys Hughes, assistant trainer to Tim Vaughan, his first winner between-the-flags.

"He doesn't really like the company of other horses. That's why I got away from the others at the start."

'Dinxsy's Day' charity football tournament

A charity football day is being held in memory of David 'Dinxsy' Coombes who passed away in September 2003

David played in the local Barry league and for Llandrindod Wells. He was a Manchester United fan and loved football.

The 'Dinxsy's Day Football Tournament is being held at Buttrills Field this Sunday, May 26. Registration takes place at 10am with the tournament kicking off at 11am. Teams can turn up on the day.

His mother Kim said: "Last year 21 teams entered, including two girls teams who we hope will come again this year.

"There will also be a competition to see who can hit the crossbar from the halfway line and a very generous cousin of David has put up a prize of £50 for the winner.



ABOVE: Last year's winners with David's family, and Jack the loyal tournament mascot, who has now sadly passed away.

"David's grandparents will be manning the barbecue and drinks stall and we will be selling raffle tickets."

"All proceeds will go to charity this year - Macmillan Nurses, British Heart foundation and animal welfare

charities.

"Last year we raised about £500 and hope to do even better this year."

Kim added: "We have already had some teams call to register, any one wishing to register a team, 7-a-side,

men, women or mixed, and over 16 years of age, can ring on 01446 404679, or they can register 10.00a.m. on the day."

"It is a fund raising event and so the players pay £1 each to play."

Tae Kwon Do Battle of Wales

THE Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do took a small contingent of new and experienced competitors to Aberdare to compete in the Battle of Wales, hosted by Rob Taylor.

The event started with traditional forms where Cody Jacobsen took first place, Cian Allen took second and joint third went to Thea Cunningham and Maddison Allen.

Next up were the juniors, with Bradley Halford taking first, Thomas Haysham second and Lucia Cunningham third. Last up were the seniors, with Matthew Bennett taking second.

Once the traditional forms were

completed, all the point and continuous sparring sections got under way.

There were two students in the final of the peewee point sparring section. In a close fight, Thea Cunningham took first place, and Maddison Allen second.

Evan Baron fought his way through his category to come away with first place, while Bradley Halford took second, and Thomas Haysham, Matthew Bennett and Cian Allen taking third place in their respective categories.

In the continuous sparring sections, Morganne Gomez Jones and Thomas Haysham were first, and Evan Baron took his second first place of the day.

Having fought extremely hard in both his point and continuous sparring section, Jake Quigley showed his all-round improvement and is one to look out for in the future. Unfortunately, Mason Blackley lost out in the first rounds to the eventual winner of both his point and continuous sparring sections.

Overall, it was a good day with a total of 21 medals; seven gold, six silver and eight bronze. The club has one more tournament before they compete at the World games in Dublin.

For further information about Cadoxton Schools of Tae Kwon Do, telephone 01446 406372.

RT

Vale Schools Under-11s retain DC Thomas Cup at Millennium Stadium



ABOVE: The Vale squad and coaches celebrate after their 7 try to 2 victory over Newport Schools.

ON SATURDAY, May 11, the Vale of Glamorgan Schools U-11s retained the DC Thomas Cup with a 7 tries to 2 victory over Newport Schools at the Millennium Stadium in an excellent display of running rugby.

Vale Schools, in their commemorative golden strip, looked sharp as they kicked off in brilliant sunshine.

The opening minutes were frantic and the Vale had two scoring chances denied by some good Newport defence.

However, it did not take long before the Vale had something to show for their dominance. A sharp break down the right flank by captain fantastic Iestyn Galton

was followed by a flick inside to full back Ben Batten who powered over for the first score.

The Vale scored again soon after when outside half Jamie Howells spotted the narrowest of gaps and sidestepped his way over.

Newport to their credit did respond strongly and crossed the line for a try of their own – this just stung the Vale into action and 3 clinical tries before half time by Lewis Williams, Ed Thomas and Mason Grady put the half time score at 5 tries to 1.

As the game moved into the second half, Vale were at their rampant best, their marauding forwards and electric backs combining time and time again to rip Newport Schools to shreds.

Rhys Gentles crossed twice in

the second half to round off fantastic team tries. The final score was a richly deserved victory by 7 tries to 2.

The significance of winning this national trophy for the second time in two years should not be underestimated, the Vale had never won this trophy until last year, so to win it and retain it is beyond everyone's wildest dreams.

The A team have enjoyed a fantastic season, losing only the first game and winning the next 16.

Coach Duncan Mottram said: "We're absolutely over the moon, this is just reward for the hard work put in by both the players and coaching staff over the season."

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Llantwit lady bowlers win on all three rinks

LLANTWIT Major Ladies bowls players had their Cowbridge Shield Match postponed because of the rain on May 14.

But on Thursday the sun came out and they were able to play their league match against Cadoxton.

Llantwit won on all rinks 56 - 35 gaining the full 10 points.

The scores rinks were:

Marian Lewis, Eryl Nicholls, Pat Cook and May Davies 22-9.

Kay Johnes, Ann Mutlow, Peggy Pike and Margaret Morgan 14-11.

Margaret Horgan, Helen Tilley, Etta Gray and Carol Willmot 20-15.

LLANTWIT BOY SHINES IN UNDER-13 CUP FINAL

A LLANTWIT Major boy, Sam Snaith, played on

Saturday for Cardiff and Vale

Schoolboys in the under-13 Welsh

national final

against Swansea

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Sam Snaith.

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...And now for something a little different from Volvo

DESIGNERS, like writers, crave inspiration and a desire to stand out from the crowd for all the right reasons, too.

So what on earth is the poor designer to do when confronted with a request to introduce a new luxury mid-range family hatchback into, what many may consider to be a saturated marketplace?

A marketplace flooded with Volkswagen, BMWs and Audis. Not only look to the competition but draw on the past, all the while looking to the future. And that partly helps to explain the new Volvo V40.

This is the second generation model because its predecessor was launched in 1996, manufactured until 2004. My uncle was the proud owner of one of these, until he hit a deer while travelling at speed on the motorway.

He was lucky to be alive but then he was driving a Volvo, renowned for its safety features.

Looking back at the original V40, it followed a long line of

Volvos of that era, with their slightly rounded edges – the manufacturer slowly breaking away from its trademark straight lines of the '80s.

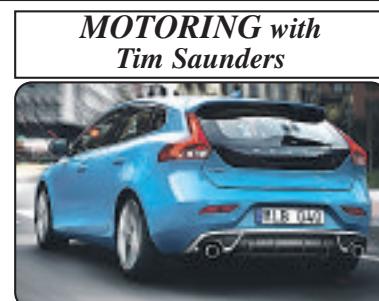
There were a lot of curves on earlier models and in common with many manufacturers, these are being revisited with today's offerings.

The Swedish manufacturer has always offered something slightly different and the new V40 continues along this road.

It can be easily recognised as a modern Volvo, sharing much in common with its larger brothers. But there is no doubt that while the brand has resurrected the V40, the model we have before us shares nothing in common with its ancestor, apart from the distinctive Volvo emblem of course and its flawless safety record.

Today's V40 is clean, fast and perhaps most interestingly of all, a hatchback. The original V40 was offered in either saloon or estate variants.

For me, an important test currently, is whether a car has a large enough boot to carry a cumbersome tandem pushchair. It's not a fair test by any



The Volvo V40.

means but one that is necessary in the current state of the Saunders family, made up of two little rascals of two years old and a little over two months.

Harriett, our eldest despises the very thought of having to sit in the front of the pushchair, but eventually gives in after a long day's walking. Heidi is perfectly happy sleeping all day long. Anyway, you can see the necessity.

A great many vehicles have boots that do not allow for such a large item. I thought the Volvo was going to join them.

I was about to give up when I decided to push the split fold rear seats down. This

allowed me to manoeuvre this bulky, awkward item into position and to my surprise and delight, I was then able to pull it back into the boot.

The boot is just wide enough to accommodate the length of the pushchair as you can see from the video at testdrives.biz.

The parcel shelf has to be removed, though. This extremely tight fit means that the same procedure has to be endured to remove the pushchair from the boot.

So it takes a little while and a little biting of the tongue in removing and refitting baby seats.

This is the first hatchback tested that has actually been large

enough for our tandem pushchair.

Externally, it's a distinctive vehicle, the R-Design model tested, complete with alloy wheels and fog lights in the front bumper, make it look sporty, helped by its poise on the road. I like the twin exhausts and the curvaceous boot.

However, I cannot seem to open the rear doors without pressing the keyfob a couple of times.

Inside, the V40 is well appointed with black leather seats, all round electric windows, sat nav and heated front seats.

If the middle seat in the rear isn't being used there's a comfortable armrest and the edge of the seat cleverly conceals cupholders, accessed by the pull of a lever.

Equipped with a slick six-speed manual box, engine stop start and a traditional handbrake (albeit in an off centre position), this 1.6-litre petrol Swede delivers capable performance while returning over 30mpg.

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*ABOVE:
Jane Hutt AM with Barry Town Mayor, Coun Les Sword, organisers, volunteers and friends of the festival at the opening.*

THE opening of Barry Arts Festival has been welcomed and attended the opening of the Festival office on Holton Road on Friday, May 10 by Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale, who commented: "It is great to see the festival opening an office on Holton Road with an art exhibition, tickets, information and a chance to be creative! The Barry Arts Festival promises to have something for everyone."

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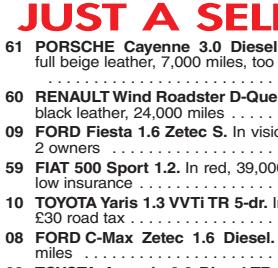
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GEM sport

LIONS' LINE UP FOR VELINDRE 'V FOR VICTORY' CAMPAIGN

A GOOD OMEN?
The British and Irish Lions squad line up in a V formation, to support the Velindre 'Victory over Cancer' campaign.

The British and Irish Lions rugby squad last week took a break from preparing for their Australian tour to show their support for Velindre cancer centre's Victory over Cancer campaign.



The players, led by Lions' Welsh captain and Velindre Patron, Sam Warburton, formed a 'V' shape to give the Velindre 'Victory V' sign.

The campaign launched earlier this month has already attracted Welsh personalities Ioan Gruffydd, Sian Lloyd, Alex Jones and

also is supported by the Welsh rugby team, Cardiff Blues, The Ospreys and Cardiff City.

Head of fundraising at Velindre, Andrew Morris, said: "We are absolutely delighted that the Lions have shown their support for our Victory over Cancer campaign, and really grateful to Lions'

coaches Warren Gatland and Rob Howley for arranging the photo.

"Rob and Warren

climbed Kilimanjaro for

us three years ago, so they have a great understanding of Velindre and the work carried out here."

People can show their

support for the campaign by visiting www.velindrefundraising.com/victorioyerovercancer.

Lions' supporters hope they will be forming another 'V for Victory' of their own at the end of the tour.

LIAM VICTORIOUS IN CHARITY FIGHT



LEFT:
Liam Rees

ON Sunday May 19, a charity fight night took place in Halewood, Birmingham.

Liam Rees, aged 15, a pupil at St Richard Gwyn school entered.

Liam dominated the two, two-minute rounds with a range of kick-boxing skills including two leg sweeps which gained him 3 points each!

He went on to beat his opponent 18-3.

Liam has been unable to train for the past four weeks due to an injury sustained during training.

He trains with Barry Hybrids, at Colcot Community Hall. On Friday, children age 5, 6-7pm, advanced youngsters, 7-8pm.

LOCAL Plaid councillor, Ian Johnson, whose ward includes the Jenner Park sports ground, has expressed concern for the future of Barry Town AFC.

He says his hope now is for a supporters-run club to rise from the ashes after the Dragons' owner withdrew them from the Welsh League.

Coun Johnson, who was Barry Town's matchday magazine editor from 1996 until 2004 and is president of fellow club Cadotown Barry FC, said: "It has been a very difficult ten years for everybody who has Barry Town's best interests at heart.

"The last few days have been tragic, as the club's league season has been reduced to a footnote in the record books because the owner withdrew them from the Welsh League for no good reason.

"However, the withdrawal of both the first team and the under-19s provides an excellent opportunity for a phoenix club to emerge, which would hopefully have the blessing of the Football Association of Wales and everybody involved in local football in Barry and the Vale, including the Vale Council.

"Manager Gavin Chesterfield and the supporters' committee have moved heaven and earth to run the club properly these past two seasons without the owner's support and I am confident that a supporters-run club will be a success, wherever they are placed in the Welsh football pyramid system."

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PLAY-OFF HEARTACHE FOR SULLY SPORTS

Sully Sports RFC 19 - Treherarris RFC 43

AFTER a very good season, missing automatic promotion by a single bonus point, the play-off for the last promotion spot turned into a disaster for Sully Sports.

Treherarris were a physically big, well-drilled, outfit but for three-quarters of the game came second best to the Sports at the set pieces and breakdown, but the Sports squandered three early try scoring opportunities and were unusually poor in their handling and tackling.

Despite having to dig deep into their playing resources - five first team members were unavailable, and a number of second team players made their debuts - the first quarter of the game was played almost exclusively in the Treherarris half.

In this time, two breaks into the Treherarris 22 looked certain to produce tries, but the 'scoring' passes to supporting players were not made, and the opportunities lost.

All the Sports had for their efforts was a Chris Cummins penalty.

Then against the run of play, a Sports attack resulted in a Treherarris 22 restart, and their left winger, caught nearly everyone "asleep", taking a quick tap and darting up the touchline.

Three missed tackles later he was caught on the Sports 10 metre line, but his off-load to a supporting team member was run in unopposed for a converted try.

The Sports returned to the offensive, and the pattern continued, with at least one try going begging as breaks to the last line of the Treherarris defence were not taken advantage of, but a second Cummins penalty narrowed the deficit to a point.

From the restart Treherarris enjoyed a small period on the attack, and won a scrum in the Sports 22. The ball was quickly transferred along the back-line; the Sports missed another defensive tackle, resulting in another converted try.

Cummins hit back with a 50-yard penalty but, as the clock approached 40 minutes, a long kick into the Sports 22 was knocked on.

They withstood the attack from the scrum, but another knock-on gave Treherarris a five-metre scrum, where a simple 8-9-10 blindside move resulted in another converted try.

In stoppage time, a series of Sports drives, rucks, interspersed with tap penalties, produced a try for lock Dean Russell, which was converted by Cummins.

Five minutes after the break, Sully yielded a penalty five metres from the corner flag, and again a simple handling movement yielded an overlap and a try in the opposite corner.

Digging deep, the Sports fought back and as the game reached the three-quarter mark, a Cummins penalty brought the deficit down to seven points.

Chasing the game, the Sports ran everything, keeping the ball alive, but were undone on their own 10-metre line, when this policy saw a rash off-load go to a Treherarris player.

There was no cover and a fourth converted try stretched the lead to 14 points.

Treherarris had the upper hand now, and they took control, with the Sports visibly shaken by the turn of events.

A Treherarris penalty with five minutes sealed the win, but from the restart the Sports gave it one last effort, and just failed to score a try from a long range attack, when the ball was chipped over the Treherarris line, and two Sports players failed by inches to ground the ball before it crossed the dead ball line.

The 22 restart went deep into the Sports half, and in running the ball out, a desperate attempt to keep the ball alive, saw an off-load near halfway, go to a Treherarris player, who had a simple run to the posts for a converted try.

Congratulations to Treherarris and best of luck to them, and their multitude of supporters, in their promotion to the WRU Fifth Division.

It was a hard lesson for Sully Sports after such a 'winning' season, but it should now give them the edge and experience for their assault on the Sixth Division next season.

M J Stafford

Night of drama in Barry Chess finals

THE defending champion was under threat from a young challenger in a tense finale to the Barry Chess Club Championship at the West End Club last week.

Trophy holder Lee Davis set an early mark with a win over Dave Mahoney, but Rhys Steele would take the title if he could beat pre-tournament favourite, Steve Cunliffe.

Buoyed by the confidence of captaining Barry Camelots to the second division title, 17-year-old Rhys set about his experienced opponent from the onset; correctly calculating that a draw would hand the trophy to Lee on tie-break.

For a long time, it looked like his determined play would bring its reward with a breakthrough on the queen's side - but Steve is a seasoned

campaigner and secured a third place finish by swapping off pieces and steering the game into a drawn ending.

The Club Plate was every bit as exciting. At one point, it seemed possible that six players could all finish on the same score.

Then Sam White, defending his trophy, turned down a draw offer before going on to checkmate Peter Watkins and so become the leader in the clubhouse.

From there, the destiny of the Plate came down to the game between Phil Jones and Kevin Gandy. Whoever won this game would lift the trophy, but a draw would mean that Sam would retain his crown.

Surrounded by a knot of observers (including an increasingly resigned Sam) Kevin kept his concentration to win a king and pawn, ending with the extra pawn he had won earlier in the

game.

On other boards, Dave Adamson finally registered a score, and Chris Green won with black against Windsor Lewis.

Chris's form improved during the tournament and this final round victory left him to ponder what might have been.

The last game to finish was a dead rubber between Craig Woolcock and Ken Hannah which was agreed drawn after an absorbing contest that had allowed both players to play serenely through the turmoil around them.

So, a very good tournament for Ken Hannah who was seeded eighth, but finished fourth; and unlucky pairings in the last two rounds for Dave Mahoney - the early leader in the plate; but overall Kevin Gandy deserved his trophy having drawn against some of the club's strongest

players in the early rounds.

The player of the tournament, however, was Rhys Steele, who finished joint first from a seeding of seventh, and came within a whisker of taking the club championship, before Lee Davis showed that youth and talent are no match for age and treachery.

Next year, Lee will find it harder still to keep this piece of silverware on his mantelpiece.

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY, with matches starting at 7.30pm. New players of all ages and standards are welcomed.

Lee Davis,
Tournament controller and club president